

CONFIDENTIAL.

(9231.)

PART X.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF THIBET.

July to December 1907.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Thibet.

PART X.

[21602]

No. 1.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 228.)

Sir,

Peking, May 14, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 196 of the 29th ultimo and my telegram No. 74 of the 8th instant, I now have the honour to inclose a translation of the Memorandum handed to me on the latter date by the Wai-wu Pu respecting the relations between Captain O'Connor and the Chinese Deputy at Gyantse.

I have the honour to inclose also a copy of a Memorandum which, in compliance with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 46 of the 8th instant, I have presented to the Wai-wu Pu to-day, informing them that His Majesty's Government will not insist on negotiating the Thibet Trade Regulations exclusively with Delegates of the Thibetan Government, provided that a Representative of the Thibetan Government with full powers be associated with Chang Tach'en.

I was informed that an answer would be returned to this proposal in the course of a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Memorandum communicated by the Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

(Translation.)

WITH reference to the question of the British officials holding direct relations with the Thibetans according to Treaty, the Board has received the following telegraphic reply from Chang Tach'en:—

“Captain O'Connor arrived at Gyantse after Mr. Kao, but did not call on him, and so the Thibetan officials, when they came to Gyantse, did not call on Captain O'Connor. Obstruction thus arose in the conduct of affairs. When I received the Board's telegraphic instructions I repeatedly told Mr. Kao that direct intercourse between the British officials and the Thibetans must be allowed according to Treaty. He has reported, in reply, that these instructions are being carried out. Now that the British Agent at Gyantse has direct relations with the Thibetans, and trade is being carried on in a friendly way without any of the forced sales or arbitrary prices which hitherto prevailed, and as the British Government recently consented [to consider the question of] instructing Captain O'Connor to call on Mr. Kao, the condition of things will naturally be more satisfactory in the future to the advantage of the trade of both countries.”

May 8, 1907.

[1523]

B

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Memorandum communicated by Sir J. Jordan to the Waï-wu Pu.

WITH reference to the Board's Memorandum of the 8th April respecting the necessity of determining upon Regulations for the trade marts opened in Thibet, which was communicated by telegraph to His Majesty's Government, the following reply has now been received:—

"By Article III of the Thibet Convention of 1904 the Thibetan Government undertakes to appoint fully authorized Delegates to negotiate with Representatives of His Majesty's Government as to the amendment of the Regulations of 1893.

"His Majesty's Government is now willing not to insist on negotiating these Trade Regulations exclusively with Delegates of the Thibetan Government. They propose that a Thibetan Delegate should, before the negotiations begin, be appointed by the Thibetan Government with full power to negotiate and sign on behalf of the Thibetan Government in such a manner as to bind that Government to the settlement arrived at; that this Delegate should then be associated with Chang Tach'en, and proceed together with him to Simla to negotiate there with a special Representative of the Government of India."

[21777]

No. 2.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 345.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 26, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 333 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith an *aide-mémoire* which I have received from the Russian Government respecting the instructions which have been sent to the Russian Minister at Peking as to his action in regard to scientific missions and the boundaries of Thibet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Aide-mémoire communicated by M. Isvolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.

EN réponse à l'aide-mémoire en date du 7 (20) Juin année courante, le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur d'informer l'Ambassade Britannique que le Ministre de Russie à Pékin, conformément à l'accord survenu entre les deux Gouvernements, a été muni par télégraphe d'instructions analogues à celles de son collègue d'Angleterre au sujet des démarches à faire dans la question des expéditions scientifiques au Thibet et des frontières exactes de ce territoire.

Saint-Pétersbourg, le 12 (25) Juin, 1907.

[21952]

No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 3.)

IN continuation of this Office letter of the 24th June, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 2nd instant, regarding accommodation for Indian traders at Gyantse.

India Office, July 3, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 2, 1907.

THIBET. Please see my telegram dated the 22nd ultimo.

Complaints as to expense and inconvenience received from traders who state that after residing at Gyantse for fifteen days they could obtain no accommodation for godown or shop. They claim that arrangements may be made for them with reference to Treaty. Trade Agent, Gyantse, is being instructed to endeavour to obtain for them the temporary accommodation, if this is suitable, which Jongpens originally offered.

[21758]

No. 4.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 98.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, July 4, 1907.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 116 of the 1st instant, it is considered desirable that the form of the Agreements which are to be concluded with Russia should be that of three Conventions; the three Conventions shall be sent to you in proper form by next messenger.

It is unnecessary to mention ratification; you possess the requisite full power.

[22136]

No. 5.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 5.)

Sir,

India Office, July 4, 1907.

IN reply to your letter of the 19th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose copy of a telegram from the Viceroy as to the negotiations for the amendment of the Thibet Trade Regulations in accordance with the terms of the Lhasa Convention.

2. Mr. Morley proposes to approve the choice of Sir Louis Dane to represent the Government of India. This appointment would be in accordance with the precedent of 1905, when the then Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department represented the Government of India in the negotiations with Mr. Tang as to the admission of China to the Lhasa Convention. Mr. Morley would also propose that Mr. Wilton, if he can be spared from his duties in China, should be deputed to India to assist Sir L. Dane in the negotiations.

3. As regards the very important point of insuring that the Thibetan Government shall have no pretext for repudiating the settlement arrived at, I am to inclose copy of a further telegram from the Government of India.

4. The revision of the Trade Regulations being expressly mentioned in the Lhasa Convention, Mr. Morley admits that there is, perhaps, no particular objection in principle to the proposal that the Government of India should write direct to the Thibetan Government. But the expediency of taking that step depends upon the circumstances of the time, and he would suggest that, before a decision is arrived at, Sir J. Jordan might be consulted as to the effect which the proposed communication would be likely to have on the Chinese Government. It may possibly be worth remembering that the Lhasa Convention was sealed with the seal of the Dalai Lama as well as with the seals of the Thibetan Council and the Thibetan National Assembly.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

June 27, 1907.

THIBET Trade Regulations: telegram, dated 17th instant, from Sir J. Jordan.

Sir L. Dane, Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, would be appointed for negotiation of Regulations with Chang. Deputation once more of Wilton, Chinese Consular Service, to assist would be a convenience.

We trust that, as in case of Lhasa Convention, Thibetan official who accompanies Chang will be furnished with credentials authenticated by Thibetan Government, giving him full authority to negotiate and sign Trade Regulations, having regard to failure of previous arrangements when Shape Shata accompanied Chinese Amban without express authority from Lhasa Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 1, 1907.

THIBET Trade Regulations: my telegram dated 27th ultimo.

Memorandum on the subject, communicated by His Majesty's Minister to Wai-wu Pu, has since been received by us.

Just a possibility exists that Thibetan Government may not be made to understand necessity for fully authenticated credentials. Do you object to arrangements made with China being communicated to Lhasa Government, and latter being requested to furnish credentials to their Representative authenticated as suggested in my previous telegram? Friendly note might be sent to Chang at the same time conveying copy of communication to him. Subsequent friction and misconception may thus be avoided.

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No. 6.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 131.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 5, 1907.

THIBET.

Please see your telegram No. 76 of the 27th ultimo.

At an interview with the Wai-wu Pu to-day the Board consented to recall Gow to China. They have also requested me to assure His Majesty's Government that their desire is to treat in a spirit of friendly co-operation with the British Government questions relating to Thibet.

I have thought it advisable to see Prince Ch'ing before replying to the last paragraph of your telegram, and an interview has been arranged for to-morrow, at which the other outstanding questions will be dealt with.

I have repeated the first portion of this telegram to the Government of India.

[22136]

No. 7.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 81.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, July 8, 1907.

THIBET trade negotiations.

In answer to your telegram No. 111 of the 17th June, I have to inform you that the Government of India is to be represented by Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, and that it will be convenient if Mr. Wilton can be spared to assist.

Do you see any objection, as regards the effect it would have on the Chinese Government, if the Government of India were to inform the Thibetan Government

direct of the arrangements which have been concluded with China, and were to request them to supply their Representative with fully authenticated credentials? A copy of the communication, accompanied by a friendly note, would be sent to Chang at the same time. This is the course which the Government of India would like to pursue.

[22697]

No. 8.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 9.)

Sir,

India Office, July 6, 1907.

WITH reference to the telegram addressed on the 27th June by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in consultation with Mr. Secretary Morley, to His Majesty's Minister at Peking as to the policy of His Majesty's Government in the matter of Thibet, I am directed to inclose copy of a Secret letter from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 23rd May, 1907, as to the precedence to be claimed for the British officers holding local charge of Thibetan affairs in their dealings with Chinese and Thibetan officials. It is proposed that the Political Officer in Sikkim should rank with the senior Chinese Amban at Lhasa and with the Thibetan Regent, and that the Trade Agent at Gyantse and the Assistant Political Officer in Chumbi should rank with Thibetan Shapes. As regards precedence in comparison with Chinese officials, it is proposed that the last two of the above-named officers and the officer who, after the evacuation, will reside at the mart in the Chumbi Valley should rank as Consuls, while the Native Trade Agent at Gartok should be treated as a Vice-Consul.

2. Mr. Morley is of opinion that it will tend to strengthen the authority of our officers in Thibet if they are formally recognized both by the Chinese and Thibetan Governments as holding the rank proposed by the Government of India. He would therefore recommend, subject to any modifications of detail that His Majesty's Minister at Peking may suggest, that the Chinese Government should be requested to recognize these several distinctions of rank, and to insist on the Thibetan Government doing the same. This request might be pressed on the Chinese Government in connection with the representations which Sir J. Jordan was instructed to make in the telegram of the 27th June as to the deadlock created at Gyantse by the action of the local Chinese officials.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Simla, May 23, 1907.

WE have the honour to forward a copy of the correspondence on the subject of the precedence which should be claimed for the Political Officer in Sikkim, the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, and the Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, *vis-à-vis* the Chinese and Thibetan officials with whom they come in contact. However much we may desire to avoid raising mere questions of etiquette, the attitude of the Chinese officials in Thibet and of the Chinese Government shows that it is really necessary to lay down some rules on the subject.

2. We propose therefore, if you approve, to discuss the question at the time of the negotiation of the Trade Regulations with Chinese and Thibetan Representatives, but, in order that we may be in possession of all necessary information on the subject, we would suggest, if you see no objection, that the opinion of His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking might be procured on the proposals made in Mr. Bell's letter dated the 25th October, 1906.

3. We generally concur in these proposals, but, as already stated in our telegram dated the 15th April, 1907, on the subject of the relations between British and

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Chinese officers at Gyantse, we consider that the Trade Agent at this place should be regarded as holding a position equivalent to that of a Consul in China. We could then, at the time of the negotiation of the Trade Regulations, press for his recognition as the equal in rank of a Chinese Intendant of Circuit. The officer who will, after the evacuation, reside at the mart in the Chumbi Valley should, we think, enjoy similar precedence, but our Trade Agent at Gartok, who is a native officer, might be regarded for the present as holding a position equivalent to that of Vice-Consul.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

MINTO.
KITCHENER.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.
E. N. BAKER.
C. H. SCOTT.
H. ADAMSON.
J. F. FINLAY.
J. O. MILLER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Mr. Bell to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Camp Gyantse, October 25, 1906.

IN continuation of my Memorandum dated the 9th instant, I have the honour to suggest the advisability of fixing the ranks of the Assistant Political Officer, the British Trade Agent, Gyantse, and myself in comparison with Chinese and Thibetan officials. The *contretemps* between Mr. Chang and Lieutenant Campbell might have been avoided if the latter's position relative to Chinese officials had been already defined by Government, for Chinese and Thibetan officials would be chary of disregarding the declared views of Government in such a matter. The fixing of our ranks will facilitate all matters of etiquette, which are of great importance when dealing with Chinese and Thibetans. I understand that our Consular Service in China are graded to correspond with Chinese official ranks, and a similar grading will, I think, prove no less useful in Thibet.

2. *Political Officer in Sikkim.*—This officer should rank equal with the Senior Amban at Lhasa and with the Regent (Ti-Rimpoché). Colonel Younghusband, as British Commissioner in the Thibet Mission, conferred on equal terms with the Amban and ranked equal with him. The Political Officer in Sikkim is the successor of the British Commissioner in dealing with Thibetan affairs, and should inherit his rank. He corresponds direct with Government, whereas the Amban sends, as I understand, some at any rate of his reports through the Viceroy of Szechuan, and not direct to the Chinese Government. And unless the Political Officer were on an equality with the Amban and the Regent, he would not have sufficient prestige and authority to deal with Thibetan and Bhutanese affairs.

3. *Assistant Political Officer and British Trade Agent, Gyantse.*—These should rank equal with a Thibetan Shape and slightly above a Chinese Tung-ling (military officer) or a Chinese Po-pön (civil officer). There are three Tung-lings in Thibet, namely, at Lhasa, Chö-ten Karpo, in the Chumbi Valley, and at Chamdo, in the Kam Province. There are five Po-pöns, namely, at Lhasa, Shigatse, Pi-pi-tang, in the Chumbi Valley, Chamdo, and Lha-ru-go, in the Kam Province. Up to date, both in Captain O'Connor's time and Lieutenant Bailey's, the British Trade Agent has been treated as at least the equal of a Shape, for the Yu-tok Shape called first on Captain O'Connor, whilst Se-chung Shape and the Tashilhunpo Shape (Gyap-ying Chem-po) called first on Lieutenant Bailey. Again, when Captain O'Connor was in Shigatse, the Chinese Po-pön called upon him first. The calls were all returned. Though Chinese and Thibetan ranks cannot be compared with exactitude, there is no doubt but that a Shape should rank somewhat higher than a Chinese Po-pön or Tung-ling, and I therefore proposed to grade our officers equal to the former and slightly above the two latter. There is no need to grade the Assistant Political Officer or the British Trade Agent higher than a Shape, and this grading will allow for a suitable difference of rank between the Political Officer and his two Assistants.

4. The Amban holds the second Chinese rank, and the Regent, though, being a

Lama, he has no official rank, is about his equal. The Shapes hold the third Thibetan rank, while the Tung-lings and Po-pöns hold the fourth Chinese rank.

5. I would therefore ask that Government may sanction the above grading, or such other as may be considered suitable, in order that we local officers may have the orders of Government to rely on instead of having to rely merely on our own self-assertion.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Government of India to Captain O'Connor.

Fort William, February 4, 1907.

I AM directed to forward herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. Bell on the subject of the precedence which should be claimed for the Political Officer in Sikkim, the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, and the Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, with reference to the Chinese and Thibetan officials with whom they come in contact. The Government of India desire to be furnished with your opinion on the question.

2. I am to say that under Article VII of the Tien-tsin Treaty of 1858 British Consuls in China rank with Intendants of Circuit or Taotais, and it would appear to be suitable that a similar rank should be claimed for the British Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Inclosure 4 in No. 8.

Captain O'Connor to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Gyantse, February 26, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 4th February, 1907, forwarding a copy of a letter (dated the 25th October, 1906) from Mr. Bell on the subject of the precedence which should be claimed for the British officers on this frontier, with reference to the Chinese and Thibetan officials with whom they are likely to come in contact.

2. *Paragraph 1 of Mr. Bell's letter.*—I entirely agree with Mr. Bell that it would be advisable to determine the relative ranks of the Political Officer, Sikkim, and the British Trade Agents in Thibet, and of the Chinese and Thibetan officers with whom they are likely to be brought into contact.

3. *Paragraph 2 of Mr. Bell's letter.*—I agree with Mr. Bell that the Political Officer, Sikkim, should rank equal to the Senior Amban and the Regent of Thibet. Should this view meet with the approval of the Government of India it will, of course, be necessary that correspondence with the Amban and the Regent should pass through the medium of the Political Officer, Sikkim.

4. *Paragraph 3 of Mr. Bell's letter.*—I agree with Mr. Bell that the Assistant Political Officer (or British Trade Agent), Chumbi, and the British Trade Agent, Gyantse, should rank equal with a Thibetan Shape. I am of the opinion of the Government of India in the Foreign Department, as communicated in their letter now under reply, that the British Trade Agent at Gyantse should rank equal to an Intendant of Circuit or Taotai. This arrangement would also be suitable, in view of the fact that, in the Chinese official table of precedence, Shapes and Taotais both wear the same button (see my "Provisional Report on Thibet," p. 46). The Assistant Political Officer (or British Trade Agent), Chumbi, if of junior rank to the British Trade Agent, Gyantse, might rank with the Chinese officer immediately below a Taotai, that is to say, a Prefect.

Inclosure 5 in No. 8.

Mr. White to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Gangtok, April 5, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to request a reference to Mr. Bell's letter dated the 24th October, 1906, regarding the relative rank of British and Chinese officers.

2. Our relations with the Chinese are becoming more intimate, and it is therefore

absolutely necessary that the rank of our officers in reference to that of the Chinese officers should be distinctly defined.

3. Owing to the want of a definite standing for our officers several unfortunate incidents, which would have otherwise not occurred, have arisen, culminating in the question regarding the exchange of visits between Captain O'Connor and Mr. Gow in Gyantse. Had Captain O'Connor been vested with the rank of a Shape, as suggested by Mr. Bell, his position would have been unassailable, and the present situation would have been impossible.

4. I would therefore ask you to pass very early orders that the suggestions made should be carried into immediate effect.

[22755]

No. 9.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 9.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 4th instant, regarding Thibet.

India Office, July 9, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, July 4, 1907.

THIBET. See your telegram dated the 2nd July.

Please repeat to Peking this telegram and your telegram dated the 2nd July. I entirely approve your instructions to Trade Agent, Gyantse. It is to be regretted that, in reply to request of Jongpens, traders' requirements were not stated by him in the first instance. You will have learnt of the determination of His Majesty's Government to avoid exercise of compulsion on Thibetans, and of the policy which is being pursued by them, from the telegram of the 27th ultimo from the Foreign Office to His Majesty's Minister at Peking. You should explain clearly to O'Connor the reasons of policy which render it imperative that he should act in such a way that local friction may be minimized.

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No. 10.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 84.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, July 11, 1907.

IT is proposed at the suggestion of the Indian Government to grant Consular Commissions to the Assistant Political Officer in Chumbi and to the Trade Agent at Gyantse. Also to the officer who, after the evacuation, will reside at the mart in Chumbi. The native Trade Agent at Gartok would receive the rank of Vice-Consul.

For the first two equal rank would be claimed at the same time with Thibetan Shpes, and the Political Officer in Sikkim, to whom they are subordinate, would rank with the Regent and senior Amban.

I should be glad to learn whether you have any objection to this proposal or to the Chinese being approached with a view to obtaining their consent to recognize these distinctions of rank, and to insist on the Thibetan Government doing likewise.

Should you see no objection, request to Chinese Government might be pressed in connection with the representations made in accordance with the instructions contained in my telegram No. 76 of the 27th June as to the deadlock created at Gyantse by the action of the local Chinese officials.

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No. 11.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th July, relative to affairs of Thibet.

India Office, July 13, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 11, 1907.

SITUATION in Thibet.

We would invite reference to final sentence of Memorandum to Chinese Government forwarded with despatch of the 29th May from His Majesty's Minister at Peking. Thibetan officials, it is true, have been sent to Gyantse, presumably as Trade Agents, but dealings with British Trade Agent are not permitted to them. Perhaps His Majesty's Government may wish to withdraw their concession to China, and will require immediate establishment of relations, under Article IV of the Convention of 1904, between British and Thibetan Trade Agents, as free communication has not yet been established.

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No. 12.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 258.)

Sir,

Peking, May 29, 1907.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 228 of the 14th May and my telegram No. 89 of the 22nd May, I have the honour to inclose a translation of the counter-proposal of the Chinese Government respecting the negotiation of the Thibet Trade Regulations, which was handed to me in the form of a Memorandum on the 21st May.

On the same date I gave the Wai-wu Pu a Memorandum, copy of which I also have the honour to inclose, representing the divergence between the assurances of Chang Tach'en and the statements of fact made by Captain O'Connor regarding the question of direct relations between himself and the Thibetans.

As reported in my telegram No. 88 of the 22nd May, the Wai-wu Pu promised to telegraph to Chang Tach'en for explanations, and the view was expressed that local difficulties would be relieved by the departure of Mr. Gow.

In reply to my inquiries yesterday, I was informed that no answer had yet been received from Chang Tach'en.

To-day I have received from India a repetition of the Viceroy's telegram to you of the 22nd May, alluded to in your telegram No. 57 of the 27th May. In accordance with your instructions, I have drawn the attention of the Chinese Government to these further reports of Captain O'Connor, and have warned them that complications are likely to occur if the situation at Gyantse is not speedily remedied. A copy of my letter is inclosed, and a copy of this despatch is being sent to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Memorandum communicated by the Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

(Translation.)

THE Board have considered your Excellency's Memorandum of the 14th instant with reference to the question of negotiating Regulations for the Thibetan trade marts.

The Board proposes that Thibet should depute a Thibetan, and India an Indian Government official, to negotiate the Trade Mart Regulations. The actions of the Thibetan Representative will be subject to the approval of Chang Tach'en, and those of the Indian Representative to that of the Viceroy of India.

We trust that your Excellency will obtain from His Majesty's Government their views on this proposal, and favour us with a reply.

May 21, 1907.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Memorandum communicated by Sir J. Jordan to the Wai-wu Pu.

IN the Board's Memorandum of the 8th May it was stated, on the authority of a telegram from Chang Tach'en, that instructions had been issued repeatedly to Mr. Gow to permit direct relations between the Thibetan and British officials at Gyantse, and that Mr. Gow had reported that these instructions were being carried out.

The reports of Captain O'Connor to the Government of India are still to the effect that no action has yet been taken by the Chinese authorities in Thibet to give effect to the instructions of the Wai-wu Pu on the question of direct communication between himself and the Thibetan authorities. In proof of this, Captain O'Connor cites the fact that the Thibetan Depon who was recently appointed to represent the Thibetan Government at the trade marts in the Chumbi Valley has recently passed through Gyantse without calling upon him, and that he sent word privately to Captain O'Connor, through the latter's Thibetan clerk, to say that Mr. Gow had given strict orders that no Thibetan officials were to call on or communicate with the British Trade Agent. The Representatives of the Lhasa Government at Gyantse have also not called upon Captain O'Connor.

Under instructions from His Majesty's Government, I have the honour to represent to the Chinese Government the urgent necessity of insisting upon prompt and unmistakable effect being given by Mr. Gow to the instructions issued to him; and I am to add that if free communication is established His Majesty's Government will not insist on the immediate appointment of Thibetan Trade Agents.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Peking, May 21, 1907.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Sir J. Jordan to Wai-wu Pu.

Your Highness,

Peking, May 29, 1907.

I HAVE made repeated representations to your Highness' Board in the course of the past few months regarding the question of direct relations between the British and Thibetan authorities at the trade marts in that country, and on the 8th May I was informed that Chang Tach'en had given effect to the Board's instructions, and that Mr. Gow had reported that these instructions were being carried out.

On the 21st May I had the honour to lay before the Board in a Memorandum a summary of Captain O'Connor's reports to the Government of India, which entirely contradict the statements of Mr. Gow and Chang Tach'en.

I have now received instructions from His Majesty's Government to bring to the attention of the Chinese Government the substance of later reports from Captain O'Connor. These are to the effect that Mr. Gow returned to Gyantse from Lhasa on the 8th May, and on the morning of the 9th May stopped by force the passage of supplies which were being conveyed to the British Agency. On the 14th May Captain O'Connor again reported that no improvement had yet taken place, but that, on the

contrary, Mr. Gow had again actively interfered in such communications as Captain O'Connor had made to the Thibetans.

It is thus clear that, in spite of the numerous conversations and exchanges of Memoranda which have taken place between your Highness' Board and myself on this subject, the local Chinese authorities are still failing to carry out the instructions which the Board assures me have been issued to them.

The situation which is thus produced cannot fail to lead to further complications, and I trust that your Highness' Board will earnestly consider some means of giving immediate effect to the Treaty stipulation regarding this question of direct relations.

Awaiting the honour of an early reply, I avail, &c.

(Signed)

J. N. JORDAN.

[23265]

No. 13.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 138.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 14, 1907.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 81 of the 9th July, I have the honour to inform you that Sir Louis Dane's appointment was formally notified by me to the Wai-wu Pu on the 9th instant. I also informed them verbally that the Thibetan Government would be notified by the Government of India and requested to furnish their Representative with proper credentials.

I think that Article III of the Convention of 1904 fairly entitles us to do this.

No reply has yet been received from the Wai-wu Pu, but as soon as it arrives I propose to instruct Wilton to proceed to India on being relieved by Ottewill who is now at Rangoon and will return to Tengyüeh.

I have repeated this telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[23266]

No. 14.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 139.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 14, 1907.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 84 of the 11th July, I have the honour to observe that the Chinese Government have never conceded Consular privileges except on the basis of strict Treaty right, and as none of our Agreements with China or Thibet contain any stipulation on which we could found such a claim, that Government would, I believe, refuse either to assist us in procuring recognition of the proposed Consular Commissions by the Thibetan Government or to recognize such a grant themselves. I think that the necessity of conferring judicial powers on the trade agents would probably be recognized if the question were raised in connection with the Trade Regulations, and the matter should, I think, be reserved for discussion then.

With regard to the Political Officer in Sikkim, I would point out that the 1890 Treaty was negotiated by a former Amban direct with the Viceroy, and the former's position was recognized in its VIIth Article. The Chinese are unlikely to depart from the precedent thus established, and, moreover, they only know the Political Officer from functions assigned to him in the 6th Article of the 1893 Regulations. I doubt, therefore, if the Chinese Government would admit the equal rank of the Political Officer with the Senior Amban, whom they still regard as the representative of the Suzerain Power in Thibet.

[23534]

No. 15.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 14th instant, relative to the affairs of Thibet.

India Office, July 15, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 14, 1907.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 5th instant.

Report received from Trade Agent, Gyantse, states that he met the Jongpens in town of Gyantse, and examined the accommodation offered for traders, which he found dirty and unsuitable. He reports that he has been urged by traders to construct their go-downs and shops; as, if properly lodged, they expect to carry on considerable business in Gyantse. He has received a visit from Chang, Chinese Customs officer from Chumbi, and has returned call and established friendly relations.

As an understanding on the question of accommodation of traders may facilitate resumption of intercourse generally, we have instructed Trade Agent to continue negotiations with Jongpens on the subject if practicable. We have told him that no steps should be taken for the erection at Government expense of residences for traders pending discussion on Trade Regulations.

As requested in your telegram, we have explained to Captain O'Connor the reasons of policy which make it imperative that local friction should be avoided.

[23683]

No. 16.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 142.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 16, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 122 of the 25th June, I have the honour to inform you that I have not thought it prudent to approach the Wai-wu Pu on the subject of the prohibition of entry of scientific missions into Thibet while other Thibetan questions are under consideration.

My Russian colleague informs me, however, that he questioned the Ministers to-day, and they replied that they must first see the entire agreement to which the proposal related before they could commit themselves to the proposal itself. They dwelt upon the difficulty of defining the frontier, and stated that they issued no passports for Thibet.

[23734]

No. 17.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 143.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 16, 1907.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 138 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Wai-wu Pu, according to a Memorandum dated yesterday, have telegraphed to Chang Tach'en informing him of Sir Louis Dane's appointment, and instructing him that a Thibetan official was to accompany him to Simla, where the Trade Regulations would be negotiated and signed conjointly by them.

Chang's reply, the Board further informed me, was to the effect that he had already left Lhasa, and expected to arrive in India about the 23rd August. He was taking with him the Tsa Kuo Kablon (Councillor of State), Wang Ch'u Chieh-pu, a Thibetan official who holds a brevet of the second rank and the decoration of the Peacock Feather.

I have furnished a Memorandum to the Wai-wu Pu to-day, in which I have pointed out that they should take steps to assure that full powers to negotiate and sign are conferred upon the Thibetan Representative, and that the Government of Thibet notifies the Indian Government of the issue of such powers.

The verbal reply of the Board was that Chang in his telegrams and despatches had made frequent allusion to this point. They were not aware whether the Delegate, who was one of the eight Councillors, and was accompanied by others of that body, had written credentials, but I could rest assured that he had proper powers. With

regard to a notification to the Indian Government, they suggested that it would be better to await the result of the Indian Government's communication to the Government of Thibet, and demurred to moving the latter Government to make any such notification.

Ottewill, who is a competent interpreter, is now at Rangoon, and if he were to proceed to India instead of Wilton it would save about three weeks' time.

I have repeated this telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[24502]

No. 18.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 18th July, relative to the status of British officers in Thibet.

India Office, July 22, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 18, 1907.

THIBET. In the circumstances stated in Sir J. Jordan's telegram of the 14th July, it seems best, as indicated in paragraph 2 of your despatch of the 23rd May, 1907, No. 89, to postpone the question of the relative rank of our officers stationed in Thibet until the question of trade regulations is discussed.

Telegram of the 11th July to Sir J. Jordan, referred to in his telegram of the 14th July, which gave effect to recommendations in your above-mentioned despatch, was as follows :—

"It is proposed, at suggestion of the Government of India, that commissions as Consuls should be granted to following officers: Trade Agent, Gyantse, Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, and officer who will reside at mart in Chumbi after evacuation; and that rank of Vice-Consul should be granted to Native Trade Agent, Gartok. Rank equal with that of Thibetan Shapes would at the same time be claimed for the first two, while the Political Officer, Sikkim, to whom they are subordinate, would rank with the Regent and the Senior Amban. Is there, in your opinion, any objection to this proposal, or to request being made to Chinese Government to recognize these distinctions of rank, and to insist on their recognition by the Thibetan Government? Request might be pressed, provided you see no objection, in connection with representations made as to the deadlock created at Gyantse by the action of the Chinese local officials. See my telegram of the 27th June."

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No. 19.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 147.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 23, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 143 of the 16th instant, I am informed by the Wai-wu Pu that telegraphic inquiry was made of Chang Ta-ch'en, and written authority to sign has been given by the Acting Dalai Lama Galdan Chipa to the Thibetan Representative.

[24797]

No. 20.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 25.)

Sir,

India Office, July 23, 1907.

IN reply to your letter of the 20th instant, as to the negotiations for the revision of the Thibetan Trade Regulations, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of telegraphic correspondence with the Viceroy on the subject.

It will be seen that the Government of India have been requested, in accordance with the oral communication made by Sir J. Jordan to the Wai-wu Pu, to address the Lhasa Government on the subject of the negotiations, and to ask that the Thibetan Delegate may be furnished with proper credentials. As regards the proposal of the Wai-wu Pu to await the reply of the Thibetan Government to this communication before themselves taking further action, Mr. Morley would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that Sir J. Jordan should be instructed to point out to the Wai-wu Pu the serious consequences of an unsatisfactory reply by the Thibetan Government, and to urge them, if they have any doubts on the matter, to use their authority at Lhasa to insure the Thibetan Delegates having the necessary powers. The Chinese Government cannot evade their responsibility in the matter, having themselves taken the initiative in respect to the negotiations.

As regards the question of the officer of the Consular Service to be deputed to India to assist at the negotiations, Mr. Morley assumes that Sir E. Grey will see no objection in the circumstances to the selection of Mr. Wilton for the purpose.

As regards the status of Sir L. Dane, who will represent the British Government, I am to inquire whether in Sir E. Grey's opinion it is necessary or desirable that he should be furnished with a Commission from His Majesty. The Trade Regulations of 1893 were signed by British and Chinese Commissioners, for whose appointment provision was made in Article VII of the Convention of 1890. Article III of the Lhasa Convention of 1904 provides for the appointment by the Thibetan Government of fully authorized Delegates to negotiate with the Representatives of the British Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 18, 1907.

PLEASE see following telegrams on subject of Thibet: Yours of 27th ultimo and 1st instant, and those from His Majesty's Minister at Peking of 14th and 16th instant.

Telegram sent by Foreign Office to Sir J. Jordan on the 8th instant was to following effect:—

"Government of India will be represented by Sir L. Dane, and if Mr. Wilton can be spared to assist it will be convenient. The Government of India would like to make direct intimation to Thibetan Government of arrangements come to with China, and to ask them to furnish their Representative with fully authenticated credentials, a copy of the communication being sent at same time to Chang Tajen with a friendly note. Does there seem to you to be any objection as regards effect on Chinese Government of proposed communications?"

You should, in accordance with statement made orally by Sir J. Jordan to Wai-wu Pu, address to the Thibetan Government a friendly and uncontroversial letter, notifying them of the negotiations to be held at Simla, and requesting that their Delegate may be supplied with proper credentials. I shall be glad to have by telegraph the substance of Articles proposed by you as basis of revised Trade Regulations. See letter from Trade Agent, Gyantse, dated the 24th January, inclosed

in your Secretary's letter dated the 28th March, 1907. As regards suggestion that Mr. Ottewill, and not Mr. Wilton, should assist at negotiations, please inform me of your views, and repeat your communication on this subject to Peking. Mr. Wilton's experience of Thibetans will be an obvious advantage.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 20, 1907.

TRADE Agent, Gyantse, telegraphed on 16th instant as follows:—

"In accordance with orders received from Chang, Thibetan officials called on me this morning, including, among others, Lyu Shar, the monk who was last appointed Thibetan Trade Agent at Gyantse; Tsa Rong Shape, a Depon or General; and a Tungying Chempo Grand Secretary. At first they were very reticent, and declined to make any statement, but the Shape informed me after some pressing that he was to accompany Chang to India, together with emissaries of the three great Lhasa monasteries, the General, the Grand Secretary, and some others. He made evasive reply when I informed him that the Government of India would insist on their being furnished by their own Government with full powers. They are completely under Chinese influence, and their whole attitude is most unsatisfactory. So long as they are associated with Chang, or any other Chinese official, the selected Delegates, though certainly representative, are mere puppets."

Trade Agent, Gyantse, further reports that on the 15th instant he and Lieutenant Bailey called in uniform on Chang, who had arrived at Gyantse the day before. They were received courteously but unofficially by Chang, and no offer or attempt to return call has been made by latter. As Mr. Wilton is familiar with whole past history of Thibetan affairs, we should prefer that he should come (see last paragraph of telegram of the 16th instant from His Majesty's Minister at Peking). Chang is not expected to arrive till the 23rd August, and Mr. Wilton should have no difficulty in reaching India in time.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[24947]

No. 21.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 25th instant, relative to Thibet affairs.

The Government of India have been requested to repeat this telegram to His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

India Office, July 26, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 25, 1907.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 18th instant.

Uncontroversial and friendly letter has been addressed to the Thibetan Government in accordance with your instructions. Negotiations to be carried on at Simla have been notified, and they have been requested to furnish with proper credentials Thibetan Delegate. Trade Agent is giving a copy of this communication to Chang Tajen, and also a friendly letter from our Foreign Secretary announcing that he has been appointed British Delegate for the negotiations. The other points raised in your telegram have been separately replied to. Trade Agent, Gyantse, informs us by telegraph that various orders have been issued by Chang Tajen from Gyantse as to supplies and transport to Headmen in Chumbi Valley. Chang Tajen has sent Trade Agent evasive

replies to two letters which latter wrote to him offering to make all necessary arrangements. Chang Tajen eventually sent a Thibetan official to Trade Agent to arrange as to transport and supplies. Mr. White, Political Officer in Sikkim, has been directed to go to Chumbi Valley, with instructions to afford Chang Tajen and Shape all necessary facilities for their journey, without, however, forgoing the principle that payment must be made to villagers for supplies and transport which they furnish (see instructions as to journey of Sechung Shape conveyed in your telegram of the 22nd February, 1906). Mr. White will, if necessary, point out to Chang Tajen that supplies and transport in Chumbi Valley should be obtained through Political Officer, but latter is perfectly aware of the fact (see my telegram of the 1st October, 1906, regarding his former journey).

[24797]

No. 22.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 91.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, July 27, 1907.

THIBET trade negotiations.

Please refer to your telegrams No. 143 of the 17th July, 1907, and No. 147 of the 23rd July, 1906.

Wilton should now proceed to Simla as soon as possible, as the Government of India have expressed their preference for him.

Unless you see any objection, it is not proposed to furnish Dane with a Royal Commission, as under the 1904 Convention trade regulations are matter for discussion between the British and Thibetan authorities direct, and as the precedent of 1893 exists. The matter, however, could be reconsidered if Chang insists.

I have repeated this telegram to India.

[25052]

No. 23.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 151.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 28, 1907.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 91 of the 27th July, I have the honour to inform you that I instructed Wilton on the 21st instant to proceed to Simla at once.

As regards the proposal in the last paragraph, I see no objection to it, and it seems to me likely to facilitate matters.

I have repeated this telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[25585]

No. 24.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 155.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, July 31, 1907.

IN a note dated yesterday, Wai-wu Pu inform me that a telegraphic assurance of the possession by the Thibetan Delegate of written credentials with full powers has been given to Dane by Chang, and they suggest that when negotiations start the respective credentials can be examined. The Board ask that negotiations may be opened at an early date, and convey Chang's thanks for the arrangements made about house accommodation at Simla.

I have repeated this telegram to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

[25756]

No. 25.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 24th ultimo, relative to a meeting between Chang and the Tashi Lama.

India Office, August 1, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

Telegraphic.) P.

July 24, 1907.

THIBET.

Trade Agent, Gyantse, telegraphs to following effect, under date 22nd July :—

"Tashi Lama sent a man secretly to me yesterday to inform me of the gist of a conversation which he had with Chang Tajen, whom he met at Dongtse on the 20th July. Chang Tajen offered to make the Lama Regent in place of Tirimpoche, but the Tashi Lama refused. Nevertheless, Tirimpoche has been ordered by Chang Tajen to carry out any orders given by the Tashi Lama. Lama was also advised by Chang Tajen to make friends with Lhasa Government, as otherwise the British would make trouble."

(Repeated to Peking.)

[26071]

No. 26.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 393.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, July 29, 1907.

IT was semi-officially announced on the 26th instant by M. Stolypin's organ the "Rossia" that, with the permission of the Emperor, Lieutenant-Colonel P. K. Kozloff, the well-known traveller, was about to undertake a new expedition into Central Asia. The following particulars were given :—

The trip would last two years, and had scientific aims. The costs of the expedition would be defrayed from funds presented by the Emperor to the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. The expedition would leave St. Petersburg in the early part of August (Russian style), and Moscow at the end of the same month. The route proposed was through Irkutsk, Verhneudinsk, and Kiakhta. At the last-named town there would be a prolonged halt for a final organization of the expedition.

The programme of scientific work was on the same lines as that carried out by Colonel Kozloff in his last Thibetan travels (1899-1901). The expedition would establish a base and a meteorological station in the centre of the region to be surveyed. During the first year a detailed investigation would be made of the Ala-Shan, Ordos, and Koko-Nor Provinces, with the Altai basin of the Koko-Nor. Lake Koko-Nor itself would be surveyed in detail with regard to its depth and islands. The base for surveying operations on the lake would be the island Kups, where there is a Buddhist temple with three or four hermit lamas.

During the second year Colonel Kozloff proposed chiefly to investigate the natural history, ethnographical, and geographical relations of the western provinces of China—Han-Su, Sy-Chuen. In this latter province special attention would be paid to the Alpine zone of the outlying ranges of China, abounding in varied forms of vegetation.

I mentioned this announcement to M. Isvolsky to-day. He said that it was quite true that Colonel Kozloff was preparing to make a scientific expedition, but that the Geographical Society had been warned that he must not cross the Thibetan frontier,

and the itinerary to which the Ministry of Foreign Office had given its assent excluded all Thibetan territory. His Excellency said that he would make inquiries as to the announcement to which I alluded. As, however, I said that I was acting without instructions, you may think it desirable to direct me to make an official inquiry on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH O'BEIRNE.

[26618]

No. 27.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 9.)

Sir,

India Office, August 8, 1907.

IN reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, regarding the negotiations for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations, I am directed to state that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in the view of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that no Commission is required by Sir L. Dane, and that, as regards the credentials of the Thibetan Representative, no further action, in view of the statements by the Wai-wu Pu reported in Sir J. Jordan's telegrams Nos. 147 and 151 of the 23rd and 31st ultimo, is necessary, unless on examination they are found to be unsatisfactory.

Copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of the 3rd instant on the subject is inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 3, 1907.

THIBET. My telegram dated the 25th ultimo.

Civil reply to Sir L. Dane's letter was telegraphed by Chang on the 26th ultimo, intimating that Thibetan Government had given credentials, bearing full powers to negotiate and sign Regulations, to Shape accompanying himself. Satisfaction was expressed by Chang that Chinese and British Governments had reciprocally approved this arrangement. On the 27th July Captain O'Connor handed Chang a copy of Sir L. Dane's letter to the Ti-Rimpoche.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[26890]

No. 28.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 300.)

Sir,

Peking, June 24, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 258 of the 29th ultimo, and to your telegram No. 66 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of the Memorandum which I presented to the Wai-wu Pu on the 13th instant, urging them to carry out their original proposal of sending Chang-ta-ch'en to India to negotiate the Thibetan Trade Regulations.

On the 15th instant I received their reply, a translation of which is also inclosed, consenting to send Chang-ta-ch'en, accompanied by a Thibetan Delegate, to India, for the purpose of these negotiations.

At an interview with the Ministers of the Wai-wu Pu on the 18th instant, I explained that the negotiations would be held at Simla, and not at Calcutta, and I urged upon the Ministers the importance of seeing that the Thibetan Delegate was furnished with the due authorization to sign on behalf of the Thibetan Government.

The Grand Secretary Na assured me that the Thibetan Delegate's powers would be adequate, and stated that he would telegraph again to Chang-ta-ch'en regarding the locality of the negotiations.

With regard to Captain O'Connor's complaints against Mr. Gow, the Wai-wu Pu have replied to my letter of the 29th May (inclosure 3 in my despatch No. 258), in a

letter dated the 22nd instant, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose. In my answer to this communication I have maintained that the friction at Gyantse has been attributable to Mr. Gow's personality, and I have suggested that if the Board desire to avoid such friction, their Representative should be a person more familiar with the usages of international intercourse.

A copy of my letter to the Wai-wu Pu is inclosed, and a copy of this despatch is being sent to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Memorandum communicated by Sir J. Jordan to the Wai-wu Pu.

WITH regard to the negotiation of the Thibetan Trade-mart Regulations, the Board stated in their Memorandum of the 8th April, that if the Government of India appointed a special Representative of high rank, and with full powers, Chang-ta-ch'en could then, of course, proceed to Calcutta and negotiate with him; or if the negotiations were to be carried on at Gyantse, by the Trade Agent, Chang-ta-ch'en could select a Representative to negotiate with him.

In the reply of His Majesty's Government embodied in my Memorandum of the 14th May, it was pointed out that although by Article III of the Thibet Convention it was stipulated that the Thibetan Government should appoint fully authorized Delegates to negotiate the amendment of the Regulations of 1893. His Majesty's Government was now willing not to insist on negotiating exclusively with Thibetan Delegates, but proposed that a Thibetan Delegate, with full power to negotiate and sign, should be associated with Chang-ta-ch'en, and proceed with him to Simla to negotiate there with a special Representative of the Government of India.

To this the Board replied on the 21st May, proposing that India and Thibet should each appoint a Delegate to negotiate subject to the approval of the Government of India and Chang-ta-ch'en. The place where negotiations should be carried on was not specified, but the Board thought Gyantse would be most suitable.

His Majesty's Government consider that much delay would be occasioned by such a proceeding. Negotiations at Gyantse offers many inconveniences, since the relations there have been strained for some time past, and there is no telegraph from there to Lhasa.

His Majesty's Government strongly desire that the Chinese Government may carry out their own proposal that Chang-ta-ch'en should proceed to India, together with a Delegate of the Thibetan Government duly authorized to sign on behalf of Thibet. His Majesty's Government would appoint an officer of rank, at least equal to Chang-ta-ch'en, to undertake the negotiations. His Majesty's Government desire further to impress upon the Chinese Government the importance of settling these Trade Regulations before the 1st January, at which date the question of evacuating the Chumbi Valley will arise.

An early answer is requested for the information of His Majesty's Government.

June 13, 1907.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Memorandum communicated by the Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

Thibetan Trade-mart Negotiations.

(Translation.)

IN the Board's Memorandum of the 8th April last, we stated that if His Majesty's Government appointed a special Representative of high rank, with full powers to negotiate the Trade-mart Regulations, His Excellency Chang-ta-ch'en could then of course proceed to Calcutta and negotiate with him.

The Board received your Excellency's reply of the 14th instant, stating that His Majesty's Government strongly desire that the Chinese Government shall carry out their own proposal that Chang-ta-ch'en should proceed to India, accompanied by a

Thibetan Delegate, in which case His Majesty's Government would then appoint an officer of rank, at least equal to Chang-ta-ch'en, to undertake the negotiations.

In regard to these trade-mart negotiations, the Board beg to observe that, in view of His Majesty's Government's willingness to carry out the Board's original proposal and specially appoint an officer of corresponding rank to negotiate with Chang-ta-ch'en at the Indian capital, the Board will therefore telegraph to Chang-ta-ch'en to take with him a Thibetan official, and proceed to India to undertake the negotiations; and the Board earnestly hopes that your Excellency will telegraph to His Majesty's Government and request them to inform the Board of the officer they propose to appoint.

June 15, 1907.

Inclosure 3 in No. 28.

Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

(Translation.)

Sir,

June 22, 1907.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 29th May, communicating a report from the British Agent to the effect that Mr. Gow had taken forcible measures to stop the passage of supplies which were being conveyed to the British Agency, and also that Mr. Gow had actively interfered with Captain O'Connor's relations with the Thibetan officials.

The Board telegraphed at once to his Excellency Chang to institute inquiries, and on the 18th instant received a telegraphic reply from his Excellency transmitting the following report from Mr. Gow:—

"About the middle of May, the British garrison interpreter, Hsiao Chung, a former fugitive from Thibetan justice, together with a number of servants, forcibly stole some loads of forage from the market. They were seen by the police, who interfered, and made them return the loads to the rightful owner there and then. Apart from this there has been no stoppage of supplies. I have now been at Gyantse for several months, during which time there has been no shortage of supplies for the British garrison—a fact which suffices to show that Chinese officials have never imposed any restrictions. How can I be said to have acted in a high-handed manner on the 9th May. Again, with regard to the statement that I actively interfered with an attempt to establish relations during May, I do not know which day in May is referred to, neither has the particular instance been specified. I am, therefore, unable to submit any report of the circumstances."

His Excellency Chang therefore requests the Board to address to His Britannic Majesty's Minister, with a view to instructions being sent to Captain O'Connor through the Indian Government, to conduct official business in a friendly spirit, when there will be no difficulty in avoiding friction.

We have the honour to address your Excellency accordingly, and avail, &c.

Inclosure 4 in No. 28.

Sir J. Jordan to Prince Ch'ing.

Your Highness,

Peking, June 24, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness' letter of the 22nd instant, communicating Chang-ta-ch'en's reply, based upon Mr. Gow's reports, to the complaints made by Captain O'Connor of Mr. Gow's actions at Gyantse.

A translation of the Board's letter will, of course, be forwarded by me to His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, but I consider it my duty to point out to the Board that there has been from the first no disinclination on the part of the British Trade Agent to conduct business in a friendly spirit, but that it has been Mr. Gow who has throughout evinced a disposition to irritate the British officials with whom he has come in contact. If the Board will examine the correspondence which has passed between him and the British authorities, copies of which are doubtless in your possession, it will be seen clearly that his language has not been such as is calculated to promote good feeling between the Agents of two friendly Powers. It appears to me,

therefore, more essential that the Chinese Representative at Gyantse should be better acquainted with international usages than Mr. Gow has shown himself to be, if the Board sincerely desires to see all friction avoided.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[26902]

No. 29.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 312.)

Sir,

Peking, June 20, 1907.

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 122 of the 25th instant, I sounded the Wai-wu Pu yesterday regarding the prohibition of entry into Thibet of scientific missions and with regard to the boundaries of that country.

I had already spoken to my Russian colleague on the subject on the 20th instant after receipt of your telegram No. 71 of the previous day, but at that time M. Pokotilow informed me that his instructions were not yet complete.

The Grand Secretary, Na T'ung, observed in reply to my overtures that the prohibition of entry appeared to be practically provided for by the Convention, but he would like further information as to the time-limit of three years. Would the right of entry revive on the expiration of that period? He would speak to Prince Ch'ing on the subject as soon as an opportunity offered itself, and they would furnish a reply in writing if I addressed a note to His Highness on the question. He considered, however, that the definition of the boundaries of Thibet could not be stated off-hand.

I did not follow his Excellency's meaning in stating that the prohibition of entry was provided for under the Convention, but, from subsequent reference to the Convention, I imagine that he had in mind Article IX (c), which in the Chinese version might be construed to imply the prohibition of entry into Thibet of all foreigners under official auspices.

Without touching on this point I stated with regard to the limit of three years that, if the Chinese Government so desired, I could suggest to His Majesty's Government the addition of an understanding that at the expiry of that period the question should be again considered. There would be no question, I said, of addressing a note to the Chinese Government till their views had been fully ascertained, upon which the text of an exchange of notes between themselves, the Russian Minister, and myself would have to be arranged.

His Excellency replied that he would lay the matter before Prince Ch'ing before committing himself to any definite answer. As I left M. Pokotilow arrived, and he informed me later in the day that he had gone over the question with the Grand Secretary, who had replied to him in similar terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[27100]

No. 30.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 28th July, relative to the Thibet trade regulations.

India Office, August 12, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

July 28, 1907.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 18th instant.

Settlement of draft trade negotiations is being deferred pending Captain O'Connor's arrival here. We will telegraph substance of revised draft as soon as it is ready. General idea is to simplify draft originally proposed, which received your predecessor's approval.

[27861]

No. 31.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. MacDonald.

(No. 163.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 14, 1907.

I TOLD the Japanese Ambassador to-day, when he communicated to me the Convention with Russia, that our negotiations with Russia were proceeding. We were agreed on the main lines. There were some points, however, which it was difficult to reduce to writing, and I doubted whether they could be arranged before next month.

Russia had said nothing more to us about Mongolia or the Chinese frontier possibly because she had now succeeded in settling that with Japan. Our Agreement with Russia would therefore relate only to Thibet, Afghanistan, and Persia.

There had been a question of including the Persian Gulf in our Agreement, but it had been decided not to do that. It was thought better to limit the Agreement to regions in which no other Powers besides Russia and Great Britain had any concern, and one side of the Persian Gulf was outside Persian territory.

But I reminded the Ambassador that we had made public declarations previously of our interests in the Gulf, and we should probably reaffirm them on our own behalf.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[27384]

No. 32.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 14th August, relative to Mr. Chang.

India Office, August 14, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 14, 1907.

POLITICAL Officer in Sikkim called on Chang Ta-jen at Chumbi on the 6th instant. Visit was not returned by latter, who, however, sent apologies for not having returned call before leaving on the 8th.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[27464]

No. 33.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 7th instant, relative to the negotiations for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, August 15, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 7, 1907.

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 2nd August. See telegrams dated the 23rd and 31st July from His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

Unless on examination credentials of Thibetan Representative are found to be unsatisfactory, no further action in regard to them is considered necessary.

It is not considered necessary that Sir L. Dane should receive Commission for purposes of negotiations. Please see telegram dated the 28th July from His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

[27465]

No. 34.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 16.)

Sir,

India Office, August 15, 1907.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a Secret despatch from the Government of India as to the infringement by the Thibetan Government of the terms of the Lhasa Convention of 1904. The Government of India recommend that the Chinese and Thibetan Governments should be formally reminded now of the various breaches of the Lhasa Convention that have occurred, in order partly to facilitate the negotiations for the revision of the Trade Regulations, and partly to avoid the suspicion which would be aroused in the event of our ultimately being compelled to continue to occupy the Chumbi Valley if the intimation that, in our opinion, the terms of the Lhasa Convention had not been fulfilled were postponed till the last moment.

Apart from the difficulties that have risen in connection with the trade mart at Gyantse, the instances of breaches of the Convention given in the Trade Agent's letter of the 5th March do not, when read in conjunction with the criticisms contained in the letter from the Political Officer in Sikkim of the 12th April, constitute a case which, in Mr. Morley's opinion, would justify a continuance of our occupation of the Chumbi Valley, even if it were the policy of His Majesty's Government to delay the evacuation.

The situation at Gyantse constitutes undoubtedly a serious cause of complaint. But in view of the reply of the Wai-wu Pu to the representations made to them in accordance with the instructions in Sir E. Grey's telegram of the 27th June, Mr. Morley doubts the expediency of making any further reference to the subject at present. If, when the negotiations have commenced, the attitude of the Chinese and Thibetan Representatives should prove obstructive, the question will arise whether the British Representative should not be authorized to warn them that our evacuation of the Chumbi Valley depends on a satisfactory settlement of the matters connected with the trade marts being arrived at, the Chinese and Thibetan Governments being simultaneously warned to the same effect.

Mr. Morley proposes therefore to inform the Government of India that His Majesty's Government do not intend to take any action at present in the direction suggested by them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

Sir,

Simla, July 18, 1907.

WE have the honour to forward herewith copies of communications detailed in the accompanying list on the subject of the infringement by the Thibetans of the terms of the Lhasa Convention of 1904.*

2. In our opinion it is impossible to admit that the Gyantse trade mart has been effectively open during the last three months, seeing that our Agent has been cut off from intercourse with the Thibetan authorities, and that no adequate provision has been made for British traders having resort to the mart. Further, it might fairly be claimed that the neglect of the Lhasa Government to secure freedom of communication between the Agents whom they have nominated for the marts and the British Trade Agents, as required by Article V of the Convention, amounts to a failure to open the marts in the manner required by Article VII. Various minor difficulties have also arisen in connection with the opening of the Gartok trade mart.

3. It is to be hoped that all these difficulties will be removed when the Trade Regulations are discussed, but it would probably conduce to the more speedy settlement of the latter if the Chinese and Thibetan Governments were formally reminded now of the various breaches of the Lhasa Convention which have occurred, and more particularly of the failure properly to open the marts, which is a matter that strikes at the root of the whole Convention.

4. If His Majesty's Government decide to move in the matter, it is desirable from our point of view that action should be taken before the discussion of the Trade Regulations is commenced, both in order that our relations with Mr. Chang may not be rendered difficult at the outset, and also to avoid the suspicion that these complaints were merely being put forward at the last moment in order to justify the retention of the Chumbi Valley. We would venture to suggest that a copy of any communication that may be addressed to the Chinese Government on the subject should be sent to Lhasa through the Government of India, in order to insure that it reaches the Thibetan Government.

We have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.
KITCHENER.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.
E. N. BAKER.
C. H. SCOTT.
H. ADAMSON.
J. F. FINLAY.
J. O. MILLER.

[27639]

No. 35.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to the title to be given to the Chinese Commissioner during his visit to India in connection with the negotiations for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, August 17, 1907.

* Not printed.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 16, 1907.

THIBET. Tang Shao-yi, on the occasion of his visit to India in 1905 in connection with the Chinese Adhesion Convention negotiations, was addressed as Tang Ta-jen by the Government of India. He was not given title of "Excellency," as only four British officials in India are entitled to be so styled, viz., the Viceroy, the Commander-in-chief, and the Governors of Madras and Bombay. Moreover, it would not have been correct for Tang to have reciprocated by addressing British Commissioner, Mr. Fraser, as "Excellency." No salute was fired on Tang's arrival, which was treated as private, but on the occasion of his visit to the Viceroy he was given a salute of 13 guns.

We should be glad also to learn Minister's views as to whether Chang should be given a salute when he arrives at Simla, or when he visits the Viceroy, and, if so, what should be the number of guns.

In recent correspondence with Chang we have addressed him as Chang Yin Tang Ta-jen. We should be glad to be favoured with the opinion of His Majesty's Minister, Peking, as to whether Chang should be so addressed without the title of "Excellency."

(Repeated to Peking.)

[27465]

No. 36.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 23, 1907.

I LAID before Secretary Sir E. Grey your letter of the 15th instant, inclosing a copy of a Secret despatch from the Government of India, relative to the various breaches of the Lhasa Convention of 1904, in which it is suggested that for various reasons the Chinese and Thibetan Governments should be formally reminded of those breaches.

I am to inform you in reply that Sir E. Grey shares the views of the Secretary of State for India on the subject, and concurs that the Government of India should be informed that His Majesty's Government do not intend to take any action at present in the direction suggested by them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[28360]

No. 37.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 24.)

Sir,

India Office, August 23, 1907.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th instant, forwarding copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking of the 17th instant, No. 161, as to the title of Chang Ta-jen as Envoy Plenipotentiary representing the Chinese Government in the negotiations for the revision of the Thibetan Trade Regulations, and the salutes to be granted him, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to submit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that Sir J. Jordan's proposals should be approved.

As regards the status of the British Representative, I am directed to inclose a telegram from the Government of India of the 20th instant, proposing that Sir L. Dane should be granted a formal letter of appointment under the Viceroy's signature. Mr. Morley sees no objection to this proposal, but in view of the high position accorded to Chang Ta-jen as Envoy Plenipotentiary, he would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's

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H

consideration, whether it might not be desirable to modify the view arrived at in the correspondence ending with my letter of the 8th instant—that the precedent of 1893 should be followed, and to grant Sir L. Dane a commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

August 20, 1907.

(Telegraphic.) P.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 7th instant.

I propose, subject to your approval, to give Dane a formal letter of appointment under my signature, with a view to meet possible objections, as the Thibetan Representative will be called on to submit his credentials for examination.

[28273]

No. 38.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 163.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, August 23, 1907.

M. ISVOLSKY proposes, with regard to Agreements and Conventions, that for all instruments there should be a general preamble and a single ratification.

The following would be the terms of the general preamble:—

“His Majesty the King, &c., and His Majesty the Emperor, &c., animated with a sincere desire to settle by mutual consent different questions touching the interests of their States in the Continent of Asia, have resolved to conclude Arrangements destined to prevent all causes of misunderstandings between Russia and Great Britain in regard to the said questions, and have named to that effect as their respective Plenipotentiaries, namely, . . . who, after having communicated full powers, &c., have agreed to the following.”

Then would come “Arrangement as to Persia,” with its special preamble and full text; then “Convention as to Afghanistan,” with its special preamble and full text; then “Declaration as to Thibet,” with its special preamble and full text and Annex as to Chumbi Valley.

After these would come the following:—

“The present Agreements will be ratified and ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburg as soon as possible. In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Arrangements, &c.”

His Excellency thinks that in this manner three ratifications would be avoided, and that one instrument would embody the whole Arrangements. M. Isvolsky wishes to know if you approve of this arrangement, and whether you wish that the Arrangements with regard to Thibet, Afghanistan, and Persia should also be signed, or if one signature would suffice at the end of the whole instrument after the clause providing for the exchange of ratifications.

On the whole this seems to be a good idea. The question as to the transfer of telegraph lines in Persia and the question of scientific missions in Thibet would be settled by an exchange of notes which would be simultaneously signed.

If you could give me a reply by next Tuesday I should be grateful.

[28367]

No. 39.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 165.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, August 24, 1907.

ARRANGEMENTS and Conventions.

A special messenger, carrying the complete French texts of all documents, is being sent this evening by the kindness of Minister for Foreign Affairs. You should receive them on Tuesday morning early. You will, I think, find that, in accordance with your wishes, all amendments have been inserted.

[28369]

No. 40.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 167.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, August 25, 1907.

SIGNATURE should take place on Saturday, if all goes well. Would you, in that case, see any objection to my retaining messenger till Saturday night, so that the Convention might be sent home with him? It would be more economical than sending special messenger if it would not cause inconvenience.

[28445]

No. 41.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 329.)

Sir,

Peking, July 10, 1907.

IN my despatch No. 300 of the 24th June I had the honour to inclose a copy of a letter I had addressed to the Wai-wu Pu suggesting that Mr. Gow was an undesirable Representative for China to keep at Gyangtze, and on the 26th June I received your telegram No. 76 setting forth the views of His Majesty's Government on the attitude of the Chinese Government, and instructing me to make strong representations on the subject to the Board of Foreign Affairs.

I called, therefore, on the 28th June on the Grand Secretary Na Tung, to whom I described the extreme dissatisfaction which was being felt over the conduct of the Chinese Representatives in Thibet, and urged the immediate withdrawal of Mr. Gow, not only from Gyangtze, but from all service in that country.

His Excellency was not able to give me a definite reply before consulting with Prince Ch'ing, but promised to have his answer ready by the next reception-day. In the meantime he asked me to show him the correspondence which Mr. Gow had addressed to the British Trade Agent, and which I had mentioned as evidence of his unfitness to occupy a post involving relations with another Power. I said I had no objection to do so, but that it must be understood that my demand for Gow's withdrawal was not based upon the nature of these letters, but upon the direct instructions of His Majesty's Government to represent his attitude generally as hostile and not in accord with the principles of the Treaty.

When I next called at the Wai-wu Pu on the 2nd July the Grand Secretary was absent, and I had to confine myself to expressing to the other members of the Board the serious view taken by His Majesty's Government of the neglect shown by China of her obligations. An interview with the Grand Secretary was then arranged for the following day, but it was not until the 5th July that his Excellency was able to inform me definitely that Mr. Gow would be withdrawn from service in Thibet. They had considered for some time past that he was perhaps unsuitable for the post, and rather than have any more friction between him and Captain O'Connor they would withdraw him. He had always refuted the charges brought against him when called upon for explanations, and the causes of friction with the British Trade Agent had always puzzled the Wai-wu Pu.

I expressed my conviction that the cause of friction lay in the fact that some one had been inspiring a policy in Thibetan affairs from Peking which was hostile to the Treaty and British interests. I need hardly say that I had in mind Mr. Tong Shoa-yi. The Grand Secretary had on former occasions frequently admitted that private telegrams had passed between Mr. Tong and Chang Tach'en of the contents of which he knew nothing, but he now confined himself to assuring me that if I would search the archives of the Wai-wu Pu I would not find a word in their instructions to Chang Tach'en to which I could take exception.

Much of this conversation was reiterated on the following day, when I was received by Prince Ch'ing, the Grand Secretary being also present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[29519]

No. 42.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 426.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, August 20, 1907.

I WROTE a private letter to M. Isvolsky in regard to the form in which the several Conventions should be drawn up, and I told him that His Majesty's Government would wish that they should be signed by himself and me as Plenipotentiaries of our respective Sovereigns and furnished with full powers. I said that as the instruments treated of questions of great importance, and, in fact, laid down the bases on which the future relations of the two countries in Central Asia would in great measure be conducted, it would seem advisable that they should be cast in a formal shape. It was of especial importance that the preambles should be retained, and these, to my mind, would more naturally preface a Convention than an Arrangement.

M. Isvolsky, in conversation, had some doubts on the subject, and subsequently embodied his views in an *aide-mémoire*, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy.

I have telegraphed to you on the subject, but this despatch will reach your hands after your decision has been received by me, and I therefore simply forward the document which M. Isvolsky has communicated to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Aide-mémoire.

DANS la série d'Accords qui ont été conclus entre l'Angleterre et la France, un seulement a été revêtu de la forme d'une Convention, celui qui concerne la Terre-Neuve et l'Afrique.

Il semblerait que dans les relations internationales entre deux États il ne peut être question de Convention que lorsqu'il s'agit de droits rentrant dans l'idée de la souveraineté. En effet, les Accords Anglo-Français concernant les territoires susmentionnés, sur lesquels les deux États ont respectivement des droits souverains, forment l'objet d'une Convention; tandis que les Actes ayant trait au Siam, au Maroc (États indépendants), et à l'Égypte (État vassal d'une tierce Puissance) revêtent la forme de Déclarations. Or, dans le cas actuel d'un Accord à conclure entre l'Angleterre et la Russie, il est à prendre en considération que la Perse étant un État indépendant, et le Thibet étant un État vassal d'un autre État indépendant—la Chine—les deux Parties Contractantes n'ont sur ces régions aucuns droits souverains dont elles pourraient disposer à leur guise.

Quant à la question du préambule, sa présence n'implique pas inévitablement la forme de Convention et par conséquent l'obligation de faire ratifier l'Acte International dans lequel il se trouve—à preuve l'Accord Russo-Japonais qui vient d'être signé le 17 (30) Juillet, il contient un préambule et n'a pas été muni de la ratification Impériale.

Il n'y aurait donc aucun inconvénient à ce que les Arrangements projetés, même étant qualifiés de Déclarations, Arrangements, ou Accords, conservent leur préambule, dont l'importance est incontestable.

D'ailleurs, au point de vue des intérêts de l'Angleterre et de la Russie, la préférence accordée à ces derniers termes sur celui de "Conventions" n'aurait aucun caractère préjudiciable, toutes ces formes ayant la même validité d'Actes Internationaux et engageant les Parties Contractantes les unes aussi bien que les autres.

L'idée de la possibilité de conclure une Convention dans les questions Persane et Thibétaine devrait, semble-t-il, être absolument exclue.

Une Convention ne pourrait, à la rigueur, être conclue que par rapport à l'Afghanistan, vu la situation spéciale de ce pays vis-à-vis de l'Angleterre.

Il est à noter, en outre, que les bruits ayant trait à l'Accord Anglo-Russe rencontrent un intérêt très vif en Asie; sa publication est attendue anxieusement tant en Perse qu'en Chine, et si cet Accord revêt la forme solennelle d'une Convention cela froissera certainement les susceptibilités légitimes des cercles Gouvernementaux Persan et Chinois, qui pourraient prendre ombrage de la manière dont l'Angleterre et la Russie disposent de leur pays, avec lesquels elles entretiennent d'égal à égal des

relations diplomatiques directes. Au contraire, une Déclaration, Arrangement, ou Accord, constatant purement et simplement la ligne de conduite que les deux États s'engagent mutuellement à observer dorénavant par rapport aux questions Persane et Thibétaine, n'aurait pas le caractère d'une atteinte aux droits souverains de la Perse et de la Chine et n'entraînerait pas de suites défavorables au point de vue politique.

Saint-Petersbourg, le 6 Août, 1907.

[28647]

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 432.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, August 24, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the French texts of the several Agreements as agreed upon between M. Isvolsky and myself, including the Annexes. His Excellency has still to secure the approval of His Majesty the Emperor and the interested Ministries, but I do not consider that any modifications will be made. Should any such occur I would at once telegraph them to you; and I would be grateful if you would also inform me by telegraph of any alterations which you may wish inserted. M. Isvolsky would be deeply sensible if your reply could be sent to me with as little delay as possible.

As regards the Afghan Convention I have no remarks to make. With respect to Persia it was found most difficult to devise a clause which would render it quite clear that the localities through which the respective lines ran lay within the respective spheres. I trust that the final clauses to Articles I and II will meet this difficulty to your satisfaction.

An Annex which provides for the transfer of the Tehran-Meshed and Meshed-Seistan telegraph lines is also sent herewith, and it will be signed simultaneously with the Agreements. In accordance with the *aide-mémoire* of the 12th August, drawn up in London, you expressed your approval of this arrangement, provided that Khaf was the point from which the British control was to commence. M. Isvolsky considers that if he and I simply sign this Annex it will be sufficient, without any interchange of notes, and I venture to agree with him, but would be grateful for your concurrence by telegraph.

I have informed M. Isvolsky that, though it does not form part of our Agreements, we expect to receive an assurance from the Russian Government that they will adopt a friendly attitude towards the prolongation of some British Telegraph Concessions, and I reminded him of our communication that we would be prepared to concede the rights we possess over the Tehran-Khanikin line. He said that he would send me a communication assenting to this in principle, but that the Russian Government were awaiting information as to the financial position, &c., of the Tehran-Khanikin line, and could not go further than the above at present. I should be glad to be informed if His Majesty's Government would be satisfied with this. I should be sorry to delay signature of the Conventions in regard to a matter outside their scope. The Russian Government will of course write me a note in reply to mine regarding scientific missions in Thibet. M. Isvolsky, on second thoughts, considers that it would be best to describe the Agreement as to Thibet as an "Arrangement" and not as a "Declaration," so as to bring it into conformity with that respecting Persia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Convention.

[See No. 49.]

[28665]

No. 44.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 24th instant, relative to Thibet affairs.

In ia Office, August 26, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 24, 1907.

THIBET.

Chang arrives in Simla on the 24th August. Gow left Gyantse for India on his way to China on the 15th instant. He has orders to report himself to Wai-wu Pu.
(Repeated to Peking.)

[28647]

No. 45.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 165.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, August 27, 1907.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN Conventions.

I have received your despatch No. 432 of the 24th instant, and your telegram No. 163 of the 23rd instant.

We agree to one ratification and one general preamble, but there must in that case be one instrument styled a Convention, since one of that category and two Agreements are included in it. "La présente Convention sera ratifiée," &c., should therefore be the form in which the ratifying Article should run. Separate ratifications for each, which the Russian Government would wish to avoid, are implied in their draft as at present worded.

You should substitute "Russia and Great Britain" for "their States" in sixth line of general preamble, and "them" for "Russia and Great Britain" in the eighth line.

We prefer "dans les limites" to "en deçà" in last paragraph of Article 3 of Persian Agreement.

We do not attach great importance to these amendments.

Great Britain should, it is of course understood, be throughout mentioned before Russia in our copy of instrument.

[28863]

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 172.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, August 28, 1907.

DRAFT Conventions.

Your telegram No. 165 of the 27th instant.

In ratifying Article Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees to insert the words "the present Convention will be ratified on . . ."

As regards your suggested amendments in sixth and eighth lines of general preamble, he points out that "Them" (with a capital T) would indicate the Sovereigns, between whom it could not be said that misunderstandings existed. He pressed me to retain Russian text, and, as you mention that the matter is not of great importance, I agreed.

Persian Agreement, Article 3.

He is no less anxious than we are that the meaning should be quite clear, but the meaning of French expression "dans les limites des lignes" would be ambiguous. He

therefore suggests "dans les régions" designated in Articles 1 and 2. With this rendering there could be no doubt that the Concessions in our respective zones would be maintained, as the word "régions" occurs in those Articles. I trust you agree.

Council of Ministers will be held this afternoon, and I shall not know till this evening which alternative in the Afghan Convention they will accept, but I have no doubt we shall sign on Saturday, the 31st instant.

[29238]

No. 47.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 178.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, August 31, 1907.

CONVENTION with the supplementary documents was signed to-day by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and myself.

[29451]

No. 48.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 181.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, September 2, 1907.

BEFORE leaving St. Petersburg M. Isvolsky suggested that besides making a communication to the Persian Government a joint notification should be made with regard to the Thibet Arrangement at Peking. His Excellency also proposed that Russia and Great Britain should be at liberty to select any of the other Powers to whom they would like to communicate the substance of the Convention confidentially before it was published.

I was asked by M. Goubastoff if any communication of the Convention should be made at Constantinople. In the present case it might be well to do so, although it was contrary to the custom of the Russian Government. I should be glad to have your views on the subject.

[29536]

No. 49.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 445.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, August 31, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Convention which was signed to-day by M. Isvolsky and myself for the settlement of certain questions affecting the interests of Great Britain and Russia in Asia.

I also beg leave to forward a note which I received from M. Isvolsky in response to a communication from me, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, on the subject of the entry of scientific missions into Thibet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Convention.

SA Majesté le Roi du Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande et des Territoires Britanniques au delà des Mers, Empereur des Indes, et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, animés du sincère désir de régler d'un consentement mutuel différentes questions touchant aux intérêts de leurs États sur le Continent Asiatique, ont résolu de conclure des accords destinés à prévenir toute cause de malentendus entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Russie par rapport aux dites questions et ont nommé à cet effet pour leurs Plénipotentiaires respectifs, savoir :

Sa Majesté le Roi du Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande et des Territoires Britanniques au delà des Mers, Empereur des Indes, le Très Honorable

Sir Arthur Nicolson, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, le Maître de sa Cour Alexandre Iswolsky, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ;

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus de ce qui suit :—

Arrangement concernant la Perse.

Les Gouvernements de la Grande-Bretagne et de Russie, s'étant mutuellement engagés à respecter l'intégrité et l'indépendance de la Perse et désirant sincèrement la préservation de l'ordre dans toute l'étendue de ce pays et son développement pacifique, aussi bien que l'établissement permanent d'avantages égaux pour le commerce et l'industrie de toutes les autres nations ;

Considérant que chacun d'eux a, pour des raisons d'ordre géographique et économique, un intérêt spécial au maintien de la paix et de l'ordre dans certaines provinces de la Perse contiguës ou voisines à la frontière Russe, d'une part, et aux frontières de l'Afghanistan et du Beloudjistan, de l'autre ; et étant désireux d'éviter tout motif de conflit entre leurs intérêts respectifs dans les provinces Persanes dont il a été fait mention plus haut ;

Se sont mis d'accord sur les termes suivants :—

I.

La Grande-Bretagne s'engage à ne pas rechercher pour elle-même et à ne pas appuyer en faveur de sujets Britanniques, aussi bien qu'en faveur de sujets de Puissances tierces, de Concessions quelconques de nature politique ou commerciale, telles que les Concessions de chemins de fer, de banques, de télégraphes, de routes, de transport, d'assurance, &c., au delà d'une ligne allant de Kasri-Chirin par Isfahan, Iezd, Khakh, et aboutissant à un point sur la frontière Persane à l'intersection des frontières Russe et Afghane, et à ne pas s'opposer, directement ou indirectement, à des demandes de pareilles Concessions dans cette région soutenues par le Gouvernement Russe. Il est bien entendu que les localités mentionnées ci-dessus entrent dans la région où la Grande-Bretagne s'engage à ne pas rechercher les susdites Concessions.

II.

La Russie de son côté s'engage à ne pas rechercher pour elle-même et à ne pas appuyer en faveur de sujets Russes, aussi bien qu'en faveur de sujets de Puissances tierces, de Concessions quelconques de nature politique ou commerciale, telles que les Concessions de chemins de fer, de banques, de télégraphes, de routes, de transport, d'assurance, &c., au delà d'une ligne allant de la frontière Afghane par Gazik, Birdjand, Kerman, et aboutissant à Bender Abbas, et à ne pas s'opposer, directement ou indirectement, à des demandes de pareilles Concessions dans cette région soutenues par le Gouvernement Britannique. Il est bien entendu que les localités mentionnées ci-dessus entrent dans la région où la Russie s'engage à ne pas rechercher les susdites Concessions.

III.

La Russie s'engage pour sa part à ne pas s'opposer, sans s'être préalablement entendue avec l'Angleterre, à ce que des Concessions quelconques soient données à des sujets Britanniques dans les régions de la Perse situées entre les lignes mentionnées dans les Articles I et II.

La Grande-Bretagne prend un engagement identique en ce qui concerne des Concessions à donner à des sujets Russes dans les mêmes régions de la Perse.

Toutes les Concessions existant actuellement dans les régions désignées dans les Articles I et II sont maintenues.

IV.

Il est entendu que les revenus de toutes les douanes Persanes, à l'exception de celles du Farsistan et du Golfe Persique, revenus garantissant l'amortissement et les

intérêts des emprunts conclus par le Gouvernement du Schah à la Banque d'Escompte et de Prêts de Perse jusqu'à la date de la signature du présent Arrangement, seront affectés au même but que par le passé.

Il est également entendu que les revenus des douanes Persanes du Farsistan et du Golfe Persique, aussi bien que ceux des pêcheries sur le littoral Persan de la Mer Caspienne et ceux des postes et télégraphes seront affectés comme par le passé au service des emprunts conclus par le Gouvernement du Schah à la Banque Impériale de Perse jusqu'à la date de la signature du présent Arrangement.

V

En cas d'irrégularités dans l'amortissement ou le paiement des intérêts des emprunts Persans conclus à la Banque d'Escompte et de Prêts de Perse et à la Banque Impériale de Perse jusqu'à la date de la signature du présent Arrangement, et si la nécessité se présente pour la Russie d'instituer un contrôle sur des sources de revenus garantissant le service régulier des emprunts conclus à la première des dites banques et situées dans la région mentionnée dans l'Article II du présent Arrangement, ou pour la Grande-Bretagne d'instituer un contrôle sur des sources de revenus garantissant le service régulier des emprunts conclus à la seconde des dites banques et situées dans la région mentionnée dans l'Article I du présent Arrangement, les Gouvernements Anglais et Russe s'engagent à entrer préalablement dans un échange d'idées amical en vue de déterminer d'un commun accord les mesures de contrôle en question et d'éviter toute ingérence qui ne serait pas conforme aux principes servant de base au présent Arrangement.

Convention concernant l'Afghanistan.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes, en vue d'assurer la parfaite sécurité sur les frontières respectives en Asie Centrale et le maintien dans ces régions d'une paix solide et durable, ont conclu la Convention suivante :—

ARTICLE I.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique déclare qu'il n'a pas l'intention de changer l'état politique de l'Afghanistan.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique s'engage, en outre, à exercer son influence en Afghanistan seulement dans un sens pacifique, et il ne prendra pas lui-même en Afghanistan et n'encouragera pas l'Afghanistan à prendre des mesures menaçant la Russie.

De son côté, le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie déclare qu'il reconnaît l'Afghanistan comme se trouvant en dehors de la sphère de l'influence Russe, et il s'engage à se servir pour toutes ses relations politiques avec l'Afghanistan de l'intermédiaire du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ; il s'engage aussi à n'envoyer aucuns Agents en Afghanistan.

ARTICLE II.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ayant déclaré dans le Traité signé à Kaboul le 21 Mars, 1905, qu'il reconnaît l'Arrangement et les engagements conclus avec le défunt Émir Abdur Rahman et qu'il n'a aucune intention de s'ingérer dans l'administration intérieure du territoire Afghan, la Grande-Bretagne s'engage à ne pas annexer ou occuper, contrairement au dit Traité, une partie quelconque de l'Afghanistan, ni à s'ingérer dans l'administration intérieure de ce pays, sous réserve que l'Émir remplira les engagements déjà contractés par lui à l'égard du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en vertu du Traité susmentionné.

ARTICLE III.

Les autorités Russes et Afghanes, spécialement désignées à cet effet, sur la frontière ou dans les provinces frontières, pourront établir des relations directes réciproques pour régler les questions locales d'un caractère non politique.

ARTICLE IV.

Les Gouvernements de la Grande-Bretagne et de Russie déclarent reconnaître, par rapport à l'Afghanistan, le principe de l'égalité de traitement pour ce qui concerne le commerce, et conviennent que toutes les facilités qui ont été ou seront acquises à l'avenir au commerce et aux commerçants Anglais et Anglo-Indiens seront également appliquées au commerce et aux commerçants Russes. Si le développement du commerce vient à démontrer la nécessité d'agents commerciaux, les deux Gouvernements s'entendront sur les mesures à prendre, eu égard bien entendu aux droits souverains de l'Émir.

ARTICLE V.

Les présents Arrangements n'entreront en vigueur qu'à partir du moment où le Gouvernement Britannique aura notifié au Gouvernement de Russie le consentement de l'Émir aux termes ci-dessus stipulés.

Arrangement concernant le Thibet.

Les Gouvernements de la Grande-Bretagne et de Russie, reconnaissant les droits suzerains de la Chine sur le Thibet et considérant que par suite de sa situation géographique la Grande-Bretagne a un intérêt spécial à voir le régime actuel des relations extérieures du Thibet intégralement maintenu, sont convenus de l'Arrangement suivant :—

ARTICLE I.

Les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à respecter l'intégrité territoriale du Thibet et à s'abstenir de toute ingérence dans son administration intérieure.

ARTICLE II.

Se conformant au principe admis de la suzeraineté de la Chine sur le Thibet, la Grande-Bretagne et la Russie s'engagent à ne traiter avec le Thibet que par l'entremise du Gouvernement Chinois. Cet engagement n'exclut pas toutefois les rapports directs des agents commerciaux Anglais avec les autorités Thibétaines prévus par l'Article V de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, entre la Grande-Bretagne et le Thibet, et confirmés par la Convention du 27 Avril, 1906, entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine ; il ne modifie pas non plus les engagements assumés par la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine en vertu de l'Article I de la dite Convention de 1906.

Il est bien entendu que les Bouddhistes tant sujets Britanniques que Russes peuvent entrer en relations directes sur le terrain strictement religieux avec le Dalai-Lama et les autres représentants du Bouddhisme au Thibet ; les Gouvernements de la Grande-Bretagne et de Russie s'engagent, pour autant qu'il dépendra d'eux, à ne pas admettre que ces relations puissent porter atteinte aux stipulations du présent Arrangement.

ARTICLE III.

Les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe s'engagent, chacun pour sa part, à ne pas envoyer de Représentants à Lhassa.

ARTICLE IV.

Les deux Hautes Parties s'engagent à ne rechercher ou obtenir, ni pour leur propre compte, ni en faveur de leurs sujets, aucunes Concessions de chemins de fer, routes, télégraphes et mines, ou autres droits au Thibet.

ARTICLE V.

Les deux Gouvernements sont d'accord qu'aucune partie des revenus du Thibet, soit en nature, soit en espèces, ne peut être engagée ou assignée tant à la Grande-Bretagne et à la Russie qu'à leurs sujets.

Annexe à l'Arrangement entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Russie concernant le Thibet.

La Grande-Bretagne réaffirme la déclaration signée par son Excellence le Vice-Roi et Gouverneur-Général des Indes et annexée à la ratification de la Convention du 7 Septembre, 1904, stipulant que l'occupation de la Vallée de Chumbi par les forces Britanniques prendra fin après le paiement de trois annuités de l'indemnité de 25,00,000 roupies, à condition que les places de marché mentionnées dans l'Article II de la dite Convention aient été effectivement ouvertes depuis trois ans, et que les autorités Thibétaines durant cette période se soient conformées strictement sous tous les rapports aux termes de la dite Convention de 1904. Il est bien entendu que si l'occupation de la Vallée du Chumbi par les forces Britanniques n'aura pas pris fin, pour quelque raison que ce soit, à l'époque prévue par la Déclaration précitée, les Gouvernements Britannique et Russe entreront dans un échange de vues amical à ce sujet.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée et les ratifications en seront échangées à Saint-Petersbourg aussitôt que faire se pourra.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé la présente Convention et y ont apposé leurs cachets.

Fait à Saint-Petersbourg, en double expédition, le 18 (31) Août, 1907.

(L.S.) A. NICOLSON.

(L.S.) ISWOLSKY.

(Translation.)

Convention.

HIS Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, animated by the sincere desire to settle by mutual agreement different questions concerning the interests of their States on the Continent of Asia, have determined to conclude Agreements destined to prevent all cause of misunderstanding between Great Britain and Russia in regard to the questions referred to, and have nominated for this purpose their respective Plenipotentiaires, to wit :

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, the Right Honourable Sir Arthur Nicolson, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentary to His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias ;

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the Master of his Court Alexander Iswolsky, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

Who, having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following :—

Arrangement concerning Persia.

The Governments of Great Britain and Russia having mutually engaged to respect the integrity and independence of Persia, and sincerely desiring the preservation of order throughout that country and its peaceful development, as well as the permanent establishment of equal advantages for the trade and industry of all other nations ;

Considering that each of them has, for geographical and economic reasons, a special interest in the maintenance of peace and order in certain provinces of Persia adjoining, or in the neighbourhood of, the Russian frontier on the one hand, and the frontiers of Afghanistan and Baluchistan on the other hand ; and being desirous of avoiding all cause of conflict between their respective interests in the above-mentioned Provinces of Persia ;

Have agreed on the following terms :—

I.

Great Britain engages not to seek for herself, and not to support in favour of British subjects, or in favour of the subjects of third Powers, any Concessions of a

political or commercial nature—such as Concessions for railways, banks, telegraphs, roads, transport, insurance, &c.—beyond a line starting from Kasr-i-Shirin, passing through Isfahan, Yezd, Kakhk, and ending at a point on the Persian frontier at the intersection of the Russian and Afghan frontiers, and not to oppose, directly or indirectly, demands for similar Concessions in this region which are supported by the Russian Government. It is understood that the above-mentioned places are included in the region in which Great Britain engages not to seek the Concessions referred to.

II.

Russia, on her part, engages not to seek for herself and not to support, in favour of Russian subjects, or in favour of the subjects of third Powers, any Concessions of a political or commercial nature—such as Concessions for railways, banks, telegraphs, roads, transport, insurance, &c.—beyond a line going from the Afghan frontier by way of Gazik, Birjand, Kerman, and ending at Bunder Abbas, and not to oppose, directly or indirectly, demands for similar Concessions in this region which are supported by the British Government. It is understood that the above-mentioned places are included in the region in which Russia engages not to seek the Concessions referred to.

III.

Russia, on her part, engages not to oppose, without previous arrangement with Great Britain, the grant of any Concessions whatever to British subjects in the regions of Persia situated between the lines mentioned in Articles I and II.

Great Britain undertakes a similar engagement as regards the grant of Concessions to Russian subjects in the same regions of Persia.

All Concessions existing at present in the regions indicated in Articles I and II are maintained.

IV.

It is understood that the revenues of all the Persian customs, with the exception of those of Farsistan and of the Persian Gulf, revenues guaranteeing the amortization and the interest of the loans concluded by the Government of the Shah with the "*Banque d'Escompte et des Prêts de Perse*" up to the date of the signature of the present Arrangement, shall be devoted to the same purpose as in the past.

It is equally understood that the revenues of the Persian customs of Farsistan and of the Persian Gulf, as well as those of the fisheries on the Persian shore of the Caspian Sea and those of the Posts and Telegraphs, shall be devoted, as in the past, to the service of the loans concluded by the Government of the Shah with the Imperial Bank of Persia up to the date of the signature of the present Arrangement.

V.

In the event of irregularities occurring in the amortization or the payment of the interest of the Persian loans concluded with the "*Banque d'Escompte et des Prêts de Perse*" and with the Imperial Bank of Persia up to the date of the signature of the present Arrangement, and in the event of the necessity arising for Russia to establish control over the sources of revenue guaranteeing the regular service of the loans concluded with the first-named bank, and situated in the region mentioned in Article II of the present Arrangement, or for Great Britain to establish control over the sources of revenue guaranteeing the regular service of the loans concluded with the second-named bank, and situated in the region mentioned in Article I of the present Arrangement, the British and Russian Governments undertake to enter beforehand into a friendly exchange of ideas with a view to determine, in agreement with each other, the measures of control in question and to avoid all interference which would not be in conformity with the principles governing the present Arrangement.

Convention concerning Afghanistan.

The High Contracting Parties, in order to ensure perfect security on their respective frontiers in Central Asia and to maintain in these regions a solid and lasting peace, have concluded the following Convention :—

ARTICLE I.

His Britannic Majesty's Government declare that they have no intention of changing the political status of Afghanistan.

His Britannic Majesty's Government further engage to exercise their influence in Afghanistan only in a pacific sense, and they will not themselves take, nor encourage Afghanistan to take, any measures threatening Russia.

The Russian Government, on their part, declare that they recognize Afghanistan as outside the sphere of Russian influence, and they engage that all their political relations with Afghanistan shall be conducted through the intermediary of His Britannic Majesty's Government; they further engage not to send any Agents into Afghanistan.

ARTICLE II.

The Government of His Britannic Majesty having declared in the Treaty signed at Kabul on the 21st March, 1905, that they recognize the Agreement and the engagements concluded with the late Ameer Abdur Rahman, and that they have no intention of interfering in the internal government of Afghan territory, Great Britain engages neither to annex nor to occupy in contravention of that Treaty any portion of Afghanistan or to interfere in the internal administration of the country, provided that the Ameer fulfils the engagements already contracted by him towards His Britannic Majesty's Government under the above-mentioned Treaty.

ARTICLE III.

The Russian and Afghan authorities, specially designated for the purpose on the frontier or in the frontier provinces, may establish direct relations with each other for the settlement of local questions of a non-political character.

ARTICLE IV.

His Britannic Majesty's Government and the Russian Government affirm their adherence to the principle of equality of commercial opportunity in Afghanistan, and they agree that any facilities which may have been, or shall be hereafter obtained for British and British-Indian trade and traders, shall be equally enjoyed by Russian trade and traders. Should the progress of trade establish the necessity for Commercial Agents, the two Governments will agree as to what measures shall be taken, due regard, of course, being had to the Ameer's sovereign rights.

ARTICLE V.

The present Arrangements will only come into force when His Britannic Majesty's Government shall have notified to the Russian Government the consent of the Ameer to the terms stipulated above.

Arrangement concerning Thibet.

The Governments of Great Britain and Russia recognizing the suzerain rights of China in Thibet, and considering the fact that Great Britain, by reason of her geographical position, has a special interest in the maintenance of the *status quo* in the external relations of Thibet, have made the following Arrangement :—

ARTICLE I.

The two High Contracting Parties engage to respect the territorial integrity of Thibet and to abstain from all interference in its internal administration.

ARTICLE II.

In conformity with the admitted principle of the suzerainty of China over Thibet, Great Britain and Russia engage not to enter into negotiations with Thibet except through the intermediary of the Chinese Government. This engagement does not exclude the direct relations between British Commercial Agents and the Thibetan authorities provided for in Article V of the Convention between Great Britain and Thibet of the 7th September, 1904, and confirmed by the Convention between Great Britain and China of the 27th April, 1906; nor does it modify the engagements entered into by Great Britain and China in Article I of the said Convention of 1906.

It is clearly understood that Buddhists, subjects of Great Britain or of Russia, may enter into direct relations on strictly religious matters with the Dalai Lama and the other representatives of Buddhism in Thibet; the Governments of Great Britain and Russia engage, as far as they are concerned, not to allow those relations to infringe the stipulations of the present Arrangement.

ARTICLE III.

The British and Russian Governments respectively engage not to send Representatives to Lhasa.

ARTICLE IV.

The two High Contracting Parties engage neither to seek nor to obtain, whether for themselves or their subjects, any Concessions for railways, roads, telegraphs, and mines, or other rights in Thibet.

ARTICLE V.

The two Governments agree that no part of the revenues of Thibet, whether in kind or in cash, shall be pledged or assigned to Great Britain or Russia or to any of their subjects.

Annex to the Arrangement between Great Britain and Russia concerning Thibet.

Great Britain reaffirms the Declaration, signed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and appended to the ratification of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904, to the effect that the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by British forces shall cease after the payment of three annual instalments of the indemnity of 25,00,000 rupees, provided that the trade marts mentioned in Article II of that Convention have been effectively opened for three years, and that in the meantime the Thibetan authorities have faithfully complied in all respects with the terms of the said Convention of 1904. It is clearly understood that if the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by the British forces has, for any reason, not been terminated at the time anticipated in the above Declaration, the British and Russian Governments will enter upon a friendly exchange of views on this subject.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburg as soon as possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and affixed thereto their seals.

Done in duplicate at St. Petersburg, the 18th (31st) August, 1907.

(L.S.) A. NICOLSON.

(L.S.) ISWOLSKY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Sir A. Nicolson to M. Iswolsky.

M. le Ministre,

Saint-Petersbourg, le 18 (31) Août, 1907.

ME référant à l'Arrangement au sujet du Thibet signé aujourd'hui, j'ai l'honneur de faire à votre Excellence la déclaration suivante :—

“Le Gouvernement Britannique juge utile, pour autant qu'il dépendra de lui, de ne pas admettre, sauf accord préalable avec le Gouvernement Russe, pour une durée de trois ans à partir de la date de la présente communication, l'entrée au Thibet d'une mission scientifique quelconque, à condition toutefois qu'une assurance pareille soit donnée de la part du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie.

“Le Gouvernement Britannique se propose, en outre, de s'adresser au Gouvernement Chinois afin de faire agréer à ce dernier une obligation analogue pour une période correspondante; il va de soi que la même démarche sera faite par le Gouvernement Russe.

“A l'expiration du terme de trois ans précité, le Gouvernement Britannique avisera d'un commun accord avec le Gouvernement Russe à l'opportunité, s'il y a lieu, de mesures ultérieures à prendre concernant les expéditions scientifiques au Thibet.”

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) A. NICOLSON.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

St. Petersburg, August 18 (31), 1907.

WITH reference to the Arrangement regarding Thibet, signed to-day, I have the honour to make the following Declaration to your Excellency :—

“His Britannic Majesty's Government think it desirable, so far as they are concerned, not to allow, unless by a previous agreement with the Russian Government, for a period of three years from the date of the present communication, the entry into Thibet of any scientific mission whatever, on condition that a like assurance is given on the part of the Imperial Russian Government.

“His Britannic Majesty's Government propose, moreover, to approach the Chinese Government with a view to induce them to accept a similar obligation for a corresponding period; the Russian Government will, as a matter of course, take similar action.

“At the expiration of the term of three years above mentioned His Britannic Majesty's Government will, if necessary, consult with the Russian Government as to the desirability of any ulterior measures with regard to scientific expeditions to Thibet.”

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

M. Iswolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Saint-Petersbourg, le 18 (31) Août, 1907.

EN réponse à la note de votre Excellence en date de ce jour, j'ai l'honneur de déclarer à mon tour que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie juge utile, pour autant qu'il dépendra de lui, de ne pas admettre—sauf accord préalable avec le Gouvernement Britannique—pour une durée de trois ans, à partir de la date de la présente communication, l'entrée au Thibet d'une mission scientifique quelconque.

De même que le Gouvernement Britannique, le Gouvernement Impérial se propose de s'adresser au Gouvernement Chinois afin de faire agréer à ce dernier une obligation analogue pour une période correspondante.

Il reste entendu qu'à l'expiration du terme de trois ans les deux Gouvernements aviseront d'un commun accord à l'opportunité, s'il y a lieu, de mesures ultérieures à prendre concernant les expéditions scientifiques au Thibet.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) ISWOLSKY.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

St. Petersburg, August 18 (31), 1907.

IN reply to your Excellency's note of even date, I have the honour to declare that the Imperial Russian Government think it desirable, so far as they are concerned,

not to allow, unless by a previous agreement with the British Government, for a period of three years from the date of the present communication, the entry into Thibet of any scientific mission whatever.

Like the British Government, the Imperial Government propose to approach the Chinese Government with a view to induce them to accept a similar obligation for a corresponding period.

It is understood that at the expiration of the term of three years the two Governments will, if necessary, consult with each other as to the desirability of any ulterior measures with regard to scientific expeditions to Thibet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ISWOLSKY.

[29551]

No. 50.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, and with reference to India Office letter of the 23rd August, copy of telegrams relative to the negotiations for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, September 2, 1907.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 27, 1907.

THIBET. Proposal in my telegram of the 20th instant that Sir L. Dane should be given a formal letter of appointment if credentials are called for by Delegates. I shall be glad to receive your approval.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, August 29, 1907.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 27th instant.

In view of the status accorded to Chang Ta-jên (see telegram from Peking of the 17th instant), it has been decided that Royal Commission shall be issued to Sir L. Dane. There will be no objection to formal letter of appointment being given by you to Sir L. Dane, pending the receipt of Commission, if you consider this necessary. As soon as the King has signed Commission I will let you know by telegraph.

[29238]

No. 51.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. Spring-Rice.

(No. 106.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 3, 1907.

SIGNATURE of Anglo-Russian Agreement is complete.

Arrangements respecting Persia, Afghanistan, and Thibet are comprised in it, and publication will be delayed until a communication has been made to the Persian Government, respecting which instructions will be given you as soon as its terms have been settled with the Russian Government, and until Arrangement respecting Afghanistan has been communicated to the Ameer.

To-morrow's messenger will bring text.

[29451]

No. 52.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. MacDonald.

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 5, 1907.

YOU may inform the Japanese Government that the Anglo-Russian Agreement is on the lines which I have from time to time during the negotiations explained to the Japanese Ambassador; it deals with Thibet, Afghanistan, and Persia only, and the whole will soon be published.

[29451]

No. 53.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 179.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 5, 1907.

YOUR telegram No. 181 of the 2nd instant: Anglo-Russian Conventions.

We agree that a joint communication should be made at Peking of the substance of the Thibet Agreement. The Chinese Government might at the same time be approached by our Minister as to the prohibition of scientific missions.

In view of the importance of no leakage occurring, we would, as regards the other Powers, deprecate communication of texts until a few days before publication, but we should not object to a verbal communication being made by each Power of substance of Agreements in a confidential manner to other Powers with whom their relations are intimate. Great stress should be laid, if this were done, on secret nature of communication, and it would not for this reason be advisable that, until publication is imminent, any disclosures should be made at Washington.

When it is decided to communicate text Porte might be included.

[29937]

No. 54.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 184.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, September 6, 1907.

REFERRING to your telegrams Nos. 178 and 179 of the 5th instant.

M. Goubastoff will telegraph to M. de Hartwig to-day instructing him to concert with Sir C. Spring-Rice respecting communication to Persian Government of substance of arrangement concerning Persia and to give tracing of zones if required. On his asking me if similar telegraphic instructions would be sent to Sir C. Spring-Rice, I informed him that this was the case.

M. Goubastoff told me with regard to communication of arrangement as to Thibet to Chinese Government that text had been sent by post and would arrive in 18 or 20 days at Peking. A telegram will be sent later to Russian Minister to act in concert with Sir J. Jordan with regard to its communication, and instructing him to speak at the same time respecting interdiction of scientific missions. On his inquiring whether Sir J. Jordan would have received text, I informed him that this was doubtful unless it had been communicated to him by telegraph; Russian Minister might, however, perhaps furnish him with a copy.

As regards communications to other Powers I carried out your instructions, and, as regarded verbal communications, I impressed on M. Goubastoff the need for secrecy. He informed me that only to France did they intend to communicate sense of Convention. On his informing me that the "Novoe Vremya" (see my telegram No. 183 of the 5th instant) was anxious to have some idea of provisions of Convention, I requested him to be discreet for some time, at all events until text had been communicated to Ameer.

[29451]

No. 55.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 100.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 6, 1907.

YOU should communicate verbally broad lines of Anglo-Russian Convention (Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 445 of the 31st ultimo in Confidential Print sent by last messenger) insisting on confidential character of communication, as it is of the greatest importance that the Ameer should receive no information on the subject until the Convention has been officially communicated to him by the Government of India.

[30118]

No. 56.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 361.)

Sir,

Peking, July 23, 1907.

ON receipt of your telegram No. 81 I notified the Wai-wu Pu on the 9th July that the Government of India would be represented by Sir Louis Dane in the negotiation of the Thibetan Trade Regulations, and informed them verbally that the Government of India proposed to communicate the arrangements made to the Thibetan Government direct, and to request them to supply their Representative with proper credentials.

The Minister of the Board who received my message was the newly arrived Mr. Wang Ta-hsieh, who confessed himself unfamiliar with the Thibet question, and was only able to take note of the intimation.

The reply of the Board reached me on the 15th July in the form of a Memorandum, translation of which is inclosed, to the effect that Chang Tach'en had already started from Lhasa, and that he would arrive in India about the 23rd August, accompanied by a Thibetan Representative described as being a Councillor of State. No mention was made of credentials having been furnished to this Delegate.

I consequently answered the Board's communication by the Memorandum, dated the 16th July, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, again impressing upon them that the Thibetan Delegate must be invested with full authority by the Thibetan Government to undertake these negotiations.

The Grand Secretary Na T'ung, to whom this Memorandum was handed, expressed the strongest confidence that the Thibetan Delegate would be properly authorized to negotiate and sign, since Chang Tach'en had frequently alluded to this point in his telegrams to the Board, and had laid stress on the necessity of such authority being granted in order to obviate subsequent repudiation of his actions by the Thibetans; but his Excellency was not able to say that the Thibetan Delegate was actually furnished with written credentials. To insist upon the production of credentials would certainly cause delay, as they would have to be sent on from Lhasa, and in the absence of Chang Tach'en from that place the Chinese Government could do little to expedite their issue, as the Senior Amban was unfamiliar with the whole question.

The Grand Secretary then adverted to the proposal of the Government of India to communicate the arrangements direct to the Thibetans, and suggested that the result of this step should be awaited. His first impulse had been to reply in writing to my Memorandum, showing, from Chang Tach'en's reports, that every precaution had been taken to secure the appointment of a duly authorized Thibetan Representative; but the insistence that written credentials should be forthcoming for the inspection of the Government of India appeared to him to indicate some ulterior motive which he could not fathom, and on consideration he would therefore prefer to consult with Prince Ch'ing before returning any reply.

I caused inquiries to be made to-day as to the result of his Excellency's reference of the question to the Prince, and have received the Memorandum, a translation of which is inclosed, stating that Chang Tach'en has informed the Board by telegraph that the Thibetan Representative carries with him written authority from the Acting Dalai Lama to sign on behalf of Thibet.

This information does not entirely agree with Captain O'Connor's report to the Government of India of the 16th July, contained in their telegram of the 20th July, in which it is stated that the Thibetan delegation returned an evasive reply when questioned as to its powers. But as far as I can judge the Wai-wu Pu fully realize

that the authority must be satisfactory to the Government of India before negotiations can be begun.

The concluding passage in their Memorandum appears to be an answer to the intimation that the Government of India were proposing to communicate the arrangements to the Thibetan Government direct. I shall not fail to take an early opportunity of alluding to their suggestion of transmitting correspondence through the Imperial Resident, and of reminding the Board that we have throughout claimed the right of direct communication with Thibet under the Convention.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

(Translation.)

[Received July 15, 1907.]

WITH reference to the recent visit of Mr. Mayers to inform us on behalf of your Excellency that His Majesty's Government had appointed Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, to negotiate the Thibetan Trade-mart Regulations, the Board have the honour to state that they at once informed Chang Tach'en, Imperial Resident in Thibet, by telegraph, and instructed him to proceed to Simla, accompanied by the Thibetan official who would sign in conjunction with himself, and undertake these negotiations.

The Board have now received Chang Tach'en's reply to the effect that he has already started from Lhasa, and that he is bringing with him to take part in the negotiations a Thibetan official, who holds the decoration of the Peacock Feather and a brevet of the second rank, namely, the Tsak'uo Kablon (Councillor of State) Wang Ch'u Chieh Pu. He calculates that they will arrive in India about the 23rd August.

The Board trust, therefore, that your Excellency will inform His Majesty's Government accordingly, and that the official who has been appointed to negotiate may be directed to undertake this task with Chang Tach'en, with a view to a satisfactory solution.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Sir J. Jordan to Wai-wu Pu.

July 16, 1907.

SIR JOHN JORDAN begs to acknowledge the receipt of the Wai-wu Pu's Memorandum of the 15th instant, in which they inform him that Chang Tach'en has started for Simla accompanied by a Thibetan official who is to undertake the negotiation of the Thibetan Trade-mart Regulations, and to sign in conjunction with himself.

Mr. Mayers, in communicating the appointment of Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., informed the Wai-wu Pu that the Government of India would notify the Thibetan Government direct of the arrangements that had been made with China, and would request them to supply their Representative with fully authenticated credentials.

Chang Tach'en has started before this necessary formality has been completed, and the Wai-wu Pu make no mention of the issue of full authorization to the Thibetan Representative, which, as I have repeatedly impressed upon the Board, is an indispensable pre-requisite for the commencement of negotiations.

As the communication from the Government of India will not have reached Lhasa before Chang Tach'en's departure, Sir John Jordan must ask the Board to take such steps as may be necessary to secure that the Thibetan Representative is invested with full authorization to negotiate and sign an Agreement, and that the issue of these powers by the Thibetan Government is directly notified by that Government to the Government of India.

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

(Translation.)

July 23, 1907.

WITH reference to Sir John Jordan's Memorandum of the 16th July, regarding the credentials of the Thibetan Representative (empowering him) to sign (the Trade

Regulations) the Board made inquiries of Chang Tach'en, and have received a telegram in reply to the effect that the Tsak'uo Kablon already holds a commission of appointment and written authority to sign, issued to him by the Acting Dalai Lama Galdan Chipa.

In future, when the Governor-General of India has any matter to discuss and arrange, it is suggested as a measure of facility that a communication might be addressed to the Imperial Resident, who would transmit it to the Treasury (Shang Shang) for the necessary action to be taken. The Board therefore request Sir John Jordan to communicate with the Government of India in this sense.

[30122]

No. 57.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 365.)

Sir,

Peking, July 24, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a summary of a Memorial by the Board of Finance which appeared in the "Peking Gazette" of the 18th instant. It provides for the formation of a modern-drilled army of 6,000 men, three-fifths of whom are to be Chinese and two-fifths Thibetan, for service in Thibet. The expense is to be met partly by the Imperial Government, partly by the salt revenues of Szechuan and Kuangtung, and partly by the suppression of existing establishments in Thibet. The Resident in Thibet, whose Memorial on the subject has not been published, appears to have made some suggestions as to the distribution of the force but the Army Board in Peking considers that the army should be kept together during the time it is being trained, and that its dispositions can be decided later.

Provision is made for the minting of a silver coinage in Thibet, and the grain commissioners are to be replaced by officers holding the rank of Sub-Prefects or Assistant Sub-Prefects, who are to have judicial powers for adjudicating Chinese lawsuits.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Extract from the "Peking Gazette" of July 18, 1907.

Summary of a Memorial by the Board of Finance respecting Thibet, approved by Imperial Rescript of June 20, 1907.

A MODERN-DRILLED army of 6,000 men, of whom three-fifths are to be Chinese and two-fifths Thibetan, is to be formed for service in Thibet. Every corporal of a file of ten is to be Chinese. With regard to the places in which the Resident, in his original Memorial, suggested disposing the forces, the Army Board thinks it better to keep the army together while it is being trained, and when this has been successfully accomplished further proposals can be made. The expense will be met partly by the Imperial Government, partly from the salt revenues of Szechuan and Kuangtung, and partly by the suppression of existing military officials and grain commissaries in Thibet.

Silver coins of 1 m. 5 c., Thibet standard, equivalent to 1 mace, Kuping standard, are to be minted in Thibet. Money supplies sent to Thibet from Szechuan are henceforth to be sent in sycee, to be coined in Thibet. The rupees of 3 m. 2 c. struck by the Szechuan mint having depreciated in market value to less than 3 mace, the Viceroy of Szechuan is to report as to the advisability of continuing them.

The emoluments of the Resident's staff are to be raised to the same scale as those of the staffs of Ministers to foreign countries.

In place of the grain commissaries now to be abolished for the purpose of carrying out their function of adjudicating Chinese lawsuits, officials with the rank of Sub-Prefects or Assistant Sub-Prefects are to be appointed to take their places in Chamdo (Tsiampo), Lali* (Lari), Anterior and Further Thibet.

* On the main road to Lhassa. Vide Itinerary inclosed in Sir Harry Parkes' No. 76 of the 4th April, 1884, to Foreign Office.

[29937]

No. 58.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 101.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 9, 1907.

ON the 31st ultimo Arrangement as to Thibet between Great Britain and Russia was signed. Next bag will bring you text, but copy, which is due to arrive in about eighteen days, is being sent by post to your Russian colleague. Having obtained a copy from him, you should concert with him as to making communication to Chinese Government of the Arrangement.

As regards communication relative to interdiction of scientific missions, you should also arrange with him.

[30399]

No. 59.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 185.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, September 10, 1907.

M. GOUBASTOFF told me to-day that the editor of the "Novoe Vremya" was anxious to publish an article in favour of the Anglo-Russian Convention, and was pressing him to furnish such information with regard to it as would enable him to do so. The article would have no official character. Although I urged delay he insisted much; I consequently informed him that I would telegraph to you about it. His argument was that apparent indiscretion would do no harm if the communication to the Ameer had a few days' start, and that the portion of the Agreement which referred to Persia would already be in the possession of the Persian Government.

Their eagerness for publication here is unfortunate; but I should be glad if I could have a reply to give him, as I feel there will be difficulty in stopping leakage much longer.

M. Goubastoff then asked me about ratifications, and informed me that as in about a fortnight the Emperor of Russia would have returned from his cruise, ratifications could be exchanged if desired about the end of September.

[30667]

No. 60.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th September, relative to the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, September 12, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

[As corrected by telegram of September 17.]

(Telegraphic.) P.

September 11, 1907.

THIBET Trade Regulations: Your telegram dated the 18th July last. We propose following draft:—

"Trade Regulations amended under Lhasa Convention, 1904, Articles II and III, as confirmed by Anglo-Chinese Convention, 1906, by common consent of British and Thibetan authorities.

[1523]

N

"For Regulations made under Anglo-Chinese Agreement, 1893, following amended Regulations are substituted:—

"1. For period of five years from date on which these Regulations come into force, all goods, other than goods of the description enumerated in Regulation 4, passing out of Thibet into India or entering Thibet from India, across the Indo-Thibetan frontier, shall be exempt from duty. If found desirable, a Tariff may at the expiration of this term, in accordance with Regulations to be settled hereafter by Representatives of the Thibetan authorities and of the Government of India, be enforced at rates not higher, or other, than those actually levied on any goods imported from, or exported to, any other foreign country. The Thibetan authorities undertake that trade between India and Thibet shall at all times be subjected to no tolls, cesses, imposts, or restrictions of any kind, save in regard to duties and Regulations, if any, which may be agreed upon as provided for in the foregoing sentence.

"2. At any or each of the marts established, or hereafter to be established, under Article II of the Lhasa Convention, the Government of India shall be free to send officers to watch over British trade; and these officers shall be free to communicate direct with the Thibetan officials and people either by letter or in personal conference.

"Same rank as that of Chinese Taotais and Thibetan officials of second rank shall be accorded to British Trade Agents now or hereafter to be established at the various marts in Thibet, and rank of Chinese Prefects and Thibetan officials of third rank shall be accorded to Assistant Trade Agents.

"3. Liberty shall be accorded to British subjects to reside at various marts now or hereafter to be established under Article II of Lhasa Convention, and to rent houses or land in such marts for storage of their goods and their own accommodation. For the above purposes the Thibetan authorities undertake to lease to British subjects suitable sites and buildings; and also, at all places where such buildings seem to be required, to leave suitable sites for the construction of rest-houses upon the trade routes leading to the trade marts in Thibet now or hereafter to be established from the Indian frontier; for the construction of residences for the officer or officers appointed by the Government of India under Regulation 2 to reside at marts the Thibetan authorities also undertake to lease special and fitting sites. Fair rents shall be fixed by Representatives of the Government of India and of the Thibetan authorities, who shall from time to time select in consultation the sites and buildings at the various marts and the sites for the rest-houses referred to above. Upon the sites rented from the Thibetan authorities British subjects shall be at liberty to erect such buildings as they require. According as the development of trade requires it, both parties shall from time to time consider the question of the extension of these sites. Liberty shall be accorded to British subjects to deal in money or in kind, to hire transports of any kind, to purchase native commodities from whomsoever they please, and in general to conduct their business transactions without any vexatious restrictions, and in conformity with local usage. British Trade Agent and Thibetan authorities, in direct consultation, shall settle rates for local supplies and transport required for British subjects. Persons employed by British subjects shall not be subjected to any kind of molestation or disability whatsoever by Thibetan authorities, who undertake to place no restrictions whatever on the employment of Thibetan subjects in any lawful capacity by British subjects. Thibetan authorities undertake that efficient protection to the persons and properties of British subjects and their establishments shall at all times be afforded.

"4. Either the Government of India or the Thibetan authorities may, at their option, entirely prohibit, or permit only on such conditions as either on their own side may see fit to impose, import or export trade in the following articles: arms, ammunition, military stores, wines, spirits, beer, and intoxicating drugs.

"5. British authorities shall exercise jurisdiction in all questions in regard to rights, whether of persons or property, arising between British subjects or their employés, or between former and the latter. Thibetan authorities shall arrest and punish, according to the laws of Thibet, Thibetan subjects who may be guilty of any criminal act towards British subjects or their employés. British Trade Agent at the trade mart nearest to the scene of the offence shall try and punish, according to the laws of India, British subjects who may commit any crime in Thibet. On both sides justice shall be administered equitably and impartially. Thibetan authorities shall have the right to send Representatives to watch the course of the trial in the British Trade Agent's Court when the complainant is of Thibetan nationality. British Trade Agent shall similarly have the right to send Representative to watch the course of the trial in the Thibetan Court, in cases in which a British subject or the employé of a British subject brings a criminal

complaint against a person of Thibetan nationality in a Thibetan Court. British Trade Agent at the nearest mart and the Thibetan authorities shall inquire into and settle in personal conference any disputes that may arise in Thibet between British subjects or their employes and Thibetan subjects; the ascertainment of the facts and the execution of justice being the object of the personal conference. The law of country to which the defendant belongs shall guide in cases where there is a divergence of views.

"6. Such arrangements as they think fit for the carriage and transmission of their post to and from the Indian frontier shall be made by the British Trade Agents at the various trade marts now or hereafter to be established in Thibet. The local authorities whose districts they traverse shall render all possible assistance to the carriers employed in conveying these posts, and the same protection as that given to persons employed in carrying the despatches of the Thibetan authorities shall be accorded them.

"7. These Regulations shall be subject to revision, after the lapse of five years from the date on which they shall come into force, and on six months' notice given by either party, by Commissioners appointed for the purpose on both sides; the Commissioners shall be given power to decide on and adopt such extension or amendments as experience may have proved to be desirable and as may be mutually agreed upon.

"8. The English text shall alone be held to be authoritative and binding upon both parties, in the event of any questions arising as to the interpretation of these Regulations."

Article 1.—First eight Articles in former draft (see Secret despatch from your predecessor dated the 27th January, 1905) are replaced by Article 1. Seeing that, for present at any rate, any scheme providing for levy of import and export duties would be difficult of execution, we think it desirable to secure, if possible, that no duties shall be levied for five years.

In event of duties being pressed for by Chinese and Thibetans, we will fall back either on simplification of clauses contained in original draft or on system, similar to that for imposts on frontier of United Provinces, of compounding by annual payments, expenditure being recovered, if necessary, by tolls on one side of the border.

Article 2.—Article 9 of former draft is embodied, with necessary omissions, in first part of Article 2.

We have inserted provisions regarding direct communications between Thibetan officials and people and Trade Agents. See Sir J. Jordan's telegram to Sir E. Grey dated the 26th March last. See your telegram of the 18th July last and our Secret despatch of the 23rd May last regarding precedence of Trade Agents, concerning which provisions have also been inserted.

Article 3.—Article 10 of Political Officer's draft is represented by Article 3.

As sale is objected to by Thibetans, and as, moreover, permanent acquisition might be regarded as a contravention of clause 9 of Lhasa Agreement, and Article 2 of Chinese Adherence Agreement, provision is made only for rent and not for purchase of land and houses for traders.

It is proposed that Thibetans should provide sites only and not actual residences for Trade Agents. Erection by Government of buildings adapted to requirements will thus be made possible. Last sentence of Article 3 is included from Article 2 of 1893 Regulations; penultimate sentence of Article is based on Article III of Treaty of Tien-tsin, 1858. Other alterations and additions to Article are self-explanatory.

Article 4.—We have omitted word "salt," as, if it were retained, Chinese Commissioner might perhaps press for inclusion of word "tea" in same Article.

For "liquors" in the same Article words "wines," "spirits," and "beers" have been substituted.

Article 5.—Articles XV and XVI of Treaty of Tien-tsin and Article 6 of 1893 Trade Regulations, with necessary alterations and additions, are embodied in this Article. Reference is also invited to section 2 (3) of Chifu Convention, 1876. Treaty of 1856 between Nepal and Thibet contains similar provisions.

Article 6.—Article 8 of 1893 Regulations forms basis of this Article, which is a new one. Compare Treaty of Tien-tsin, Article IV. Recent obstruction by Thibetan officials of transit of Gartok Trade Agents' mail to India illustrates necessity for the Article.

Articles 7 and 8.—Articles 14 and 15 of old draft correspond with these.

Owing to objection of His Majesty's Government to insertion of clause requiring previous consent of Government of India to any monopoly, Article 13 of old draft has been omitted altogether.

The first formal meeting will be held on the 12th instant. Before giving any indication of his own views on subject, Dane intends if possible, and if you approve, to let Chinese make proposal regarding modification required in old Regulations, as appointment of Representatives for revision of Regulations was suggested by Chinese Government. See telegram dated the 8th April from His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

[30706]

No. 61.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 12th instant, relative to the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, September 13, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

September 12, 1907.

TRADE Regulations. Thibet.

It was arranged to-day at meeting of Delegates for the exchange on the 19th September of Memoranda communicating the amendments which each of the three parties consider necessary in Trade Regulations of 1893. If draft is not settled by that date, may Sir L. Dane mention points on which revision is desirable, as stated in draft forwarded to you with my telegram of yesterday?

Question of powers for British Delegate was raised by Chang, but matter was got over, as he had only tenour of Imperial Commission telegraphed to him. If, however, you will kindly inform me when Royal Commission may be expected, it will be a convenience.

[30801]

No. 62.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 14.)

Sir,

India Office, September 14, 1907.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of two telegrams from the Government of India, dated the 11th and 12th September, regarding the negotiations at Simla for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.*

In the later telegram the inquiry is made whether, in the event of the draft Regulations not being settled by the 19th instant, Sir L. Dane may be allowed to mention, as points on which revision is desirable, the points set forth in the telegram of the 11th instant.

It does not appear to be practicable to examine in detail the draft Regulations in their entirety in time for the approval of His Majesty's Government to reach the

* Nos 60 and 61.

Government of India before the 19th instant; but I am to request that Mr. Morley may be favoured as soon as possible with Sir E. Grey's opinion upon the proposal contained in the Viceroy's telegram of the 12th instant.

As regards the last words of the telegram, I am to explain that the Government of India have been informed by telegram that the Royal Commission for Sir L. Dane was posted by the mail of the 13th instant.

A further communication will be addressed to you on the subject of the Viceroy's telegram of the 11th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

[30399]

No. 63.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 189.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 14, 1907.

RUSSIAN Government will, we presume, be ready to exchange ratifications by the 26th (reference to my telegram No. 188 of the 13th September). Ours are ready.

[30725]

No. 64.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 190.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 14, 1907.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN Convention. Your telegram No. 188 of the 13th September.

The views which we expressed in our telegram No. 188 of the 13th September can undergo no modification, and you should spare no effort to prevent the press from obtaining information by an indiscretion.

Please do not, without further reference to us, act on last paragraph of that telegram.

[30801]

No. 65.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 14, 1907.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date respecting the negotiations at Simla for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

Sir E. Grey sees no objection to the mention by Sir L. Dane to the Chinese and Thibetan Representatives at the interview which is to take place on the 19th instant of the points on which revision is considered desirable by His Majesty's Government, as stated in the draft Regulations contained in the Viceroy of India's telegram of the 11th instant, if the terms of the Regulations have not been decided upon by that time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[31229]

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 195.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, September 18, 1907.

THE Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs is anxious to know whether there is any objection to the publication of the notes respecting the interdiction of the entry of scientific missions into Thibet with Convention. For my part, I said I could see no objection, but would let Ministry know your views on the subject. They would be glad to have an answer with least possible delay.

[31149]

No. 67.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 203.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 18, 1907.

IN accordance with proposal, communication shall be made on the 24th to the Great Powers.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington is being instructed to give a copy of text of Convention, which is going to Washington to-day, to Russian Ambassador. Should it not arrive by the 24th, which is probable, I propose on that day to give the American Ambassador here the text. The Russian Government will perhaps do the same thing.

If a copy of the Convention has been sent to the Russian Minister at Tòkiò, you should request Russian Government for one to be sent to His Majesty's Ambassador, since he will not receive the copy which was sent from here in time.

I will send instructions to Sir C. MacDonald on the lines proposed in your telegram, as soon as I hear that Russian Government will do this.

Is it intended that the text shall be communicated to the Porte? If so, as Sir N. O'Connor has not got a copy, will the Russian Ambassador give him one?

(Confidential.)

The main outlines of the Agreement have already been made known to Baron Komura.

It can be sent by post to Vienna, Rome, and Madrid, sending it off so that it may arrive on the 23rd, and the necessary instructions can be sent to Berlin and Paris.

[31150]

No. 68.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 104.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 18, 1907.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN Agreement respecting Thibet. Please refer to my telegram No. 101 of the 9th instant.

Instructions have been sent to Russian Minister to accompany the communication of the text with verbal explanations as to the recognition of the suzerainty of China, &c., provided that it is consistent with privileges which have been secured to His Majesty's Government by Treaty in Thibet. You may take similar action.

The Russian Minister thinks that the Chinese Government might simply refuse if a mere official request were made to them as to the prohibition of scientific missions entering Thibet. You may prepare the way unofficially before making formal communication, if you think it advisable.

[31332]

No. 69.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 19.)

Sir,

India Office, September 18, 1907.

IN continuation of my letter of the 13th instant on the subject of the Thibet Trade Regulations, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to inform you that the draft Articles proposed by the Government of India have now been examined in this Department, and do not appear to him, as at present advised, to be open to any objection.

Mr. Morley would, however, be glad to be furnished with Sir Edward Grey's views regarding them before finally coming to a decision in the matter.

A copy of a telegram from the Government of India, dated the 17th instant, correcting their previous telegram of the 11th instant, is also inclosed.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

[31369]

No. 70.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 17th instant, relative to the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, September 19, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, September 17, 1907.

THIBET Trade Regulations.

Your telegrams dated the 11th and 12th instant.

Terms of draft Articles telegraphed 11th instant are under my consideration. As proposed in your telegram of the 12th instant, I may, without prejudice to my final decision, mention points on which revision is considered desirable, supposing that decision as to terms is not arrived at by the 19th instant.

[31342]

No. 71.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 206.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 20, 1907.

PLEASE refer to your telegram No. 188 of the 13th September.

We will make communication to American Government through American Ambassador here since copy of Convention cannot arrive at Washington in time. Please see that the Russian Government are informed of this, in order that similar action may be taken by them as arranged.

Communication to the Japanese Government will be made in the same way.

Sir N. O'Connor has been informed that he will receive a copy, which he is to communicate, from his Russian colleague.

[31342]

No. 72.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 123.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 20, 1907.

COMMUNICATION of Anglo-Russian Convention to Great Powers will take place on the 24th instant.

Your Russian colleague will receive instructions to give you a copy, as the one sent by post to you to-night may not arrive in time. You should communicate it on that day. On the 26th instant publication of text will take place.

[31342]

No. 73.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. MacDonald.

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 20, 1907.

COMMUNICATION will be made of the Anglo-Russian Convention on the 24th instant to the Great Powers. We will make communication to the Japanese Government through the Japanese Ambassador here, since you cannot receive the

copy sent you in time for communication. Please inform Japanese Government also on the 24th instant.

(Confidential.)

There does not seem to be any inclination on the part of the Russian Government to communicate text at Tôkiô.

26th instant is date on which publication of Convention will be made.

[31342]

No. 74.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Bryce.

(No. 44.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 20, 1907.

COMMUNICATION of Anglo-Russian Convention to Great Powers will take place on the 24th instant.

Since you cannot receive the copy in time which was sent to you by post on the 18th instant, the American Government will receive communication of it through American Ambassador here and by Russian Government at St. Petersburg.

Please see that the American Government is informed on that day.

Publication of Convention will take place on the 26th instant.

[31724]

No. 75.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 379.)

Sir,

Peking, August 7, 1907.

WITH reference to the penultimate paragraph in my despatch No. 361 of the 23rd July, respecting the suggestion of the Wai-wu Pu that communications from the Government of India to the Thibetan Government might be sent through the Chinese Imperial Resident, I have the honour to report that I made allusion to this point in conversation with the Grand Secretary, Na Tung, on the 30th ultimo, and reminded his Excellency that His Majesty's Government maintained the right of the Government of India to hold direct communication with Thibet under the Convention.

His Excellency explained the meaning of the Board's suggestion to have been that after the negotiation of the Trade Regulations, Chang Tach'en's Mission in Thibet would terminate, and the Senior Amban would then be charged with all the affairs of the Imperial Government in Thibet.

As the arrangements for the forthcoming negotiations appeared to be progressing satisfactorily, I did not lay further stress on this subject on this occasion; but as it is a question which may recur at any time I have the honour to request that I may be acquainted with the views of His Majesty's Government on the subject, for my future guidance.

It would, I venture to think, be advisable to take advantage of the present negotiations to define more precisely than is done in the existing Conventions the questions in which we claim the right of direct correspondence with Thibet, and the extent to which we are prepared to accept the Amban as the intermediary between the Indian and Thibetan Governments. The very term "Thibetan Government" requires to be defined. In the Chinese text of the 1904 Convention it appears only as "Thibet," and outside of that instrument no Government in that country, other than that of China, is in reality recognized by the Chinese. My short experience of the working of the existing Conventions convinces me that there will always be great difficulty in getting China to recognize the existence of Thibet as a separate political entity, and that the tendency will be more and more to construe the Adhesion Agreement of 1906 as restoring to China her full suzerain powers. The present position is somewhat anomalous. One day we treat some Thibetan questions, scientific Missions for example, with China exclusively without any reference to Thibet, and the next time we insist that, so far as the 1904 Convention is concerned, the co-operation of Thibet is essential to give Chinese action due validity. It is very much as if the United States had made, say, a Fishery Convention independently with Newfoundland and insisted that, while Great Britain was at liberty to regulate the other foreign relations with the island, she must be associated with the Colonial authorities in seeing that the terms of this particular Convention was duly fulfilled.

I wish it to be clearly understood that I am not criticizing the policy which led to the Thibetan Conventions, but merely pointing out the difficulties that attend their working here, in the hope that advantage may, if possible, be taken of the present opportunity to put matters on a more definite and satisfactory footing.

A copy of this despatch is being sent to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[31856]

No. 76.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 213.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 24, 1907.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN Agreement.

We concur (see your telegram No. 202 of the 23rd instant), and telegraphic instructions have accordingly been sent to Sir J. Jordan.

[31856]

No. 77.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 105.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 24, 1907.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN Convention.

Should text of Anglo-Russian Convention not reach your Russian colleague by to-morrow, the 25th instant, please inform me by telegraph of the fact; communication of text will in that case be made to the Chinese Representatives here and at St. Petersburg.

[31332]

No. 78.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 24, 1907.

I LAID before Sir E. Grey your letter of the 18th instant, asking for his views regarding the draft Articles of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

I am to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that Sir Edward sees no objection to the text of the proposed Regulations. Care should, however, be taken throughout the negotiations to keep rigidly within the spirit of the stipulations of the Conventions with Thibet and China of 1904 and 1906. Sir E. Grey considers that to extend the rights accruing to His Majesty's Government under the above-mentioned instruments would inevitably raise difficulties with the Russian Government under the recently concluded Anglo-Russian Agreement.

With regard to the use of the word "officers" in the first line of Article II of the draft, it appears to Sir E. Grey that it might be better to adhere to the wording of the original Treaty and to substitute the word "agents."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[32056]

No. 79.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 215.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, September 25, 1907.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN Convention.

My telegram No. 213 of the 24th instant.

A telegram has been received from Sir J. Jordan, stating that text of Convention has not reached Russian Minister.

A communication is therefore being made to the Chinese Minister here.

[31724]

No. 80.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1907.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 13th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Peking,* relative to the right claimed by His Majesty's Government, under the Convention of 1904, to hold direct communication with Thibet.

Mr. Secretary Morley will observe that Sir J. Jordan considers it would be advisable to take advantage of the present negotiations to define more precisely than is done in the existing Conventions the questions in which His Majesty's Government claim the right of direct correspondence with Thibet and the extent to which they are prepared to accept the Amban as the intermediary between the Indian and Thibetan Governments. Sir John further considers that the term "Thibetan Government" itself requires to be defined.

Sir E. Grey would be glad if Mr. Morley would consider the points raised by Sir J. Jordan, and would state what answer should, in his opinion, be returned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[32728]

No. 81.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 26th instant, relative to the Thibet Trade Regulations.

*India Office, September 30, 1907.**Inclosure in No. 81.**Mr. Morley to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, September 26, 1907.

THIBET Trade Regulations. My telegram of 19th instant.

In order to follow wording of Treaty it will be better to substitute word "agents" for word "officers" in Article II, and to make corresponding alteration in Article III. Otherwise, after consulting Foreign Office, I have no objection to text of draft Regulations telegraphed on the 11th instant.

Care should be taken throughout the negotiations to keep rigidly within the spirit of 1904 and 1906 Conventions, as difficulties with the Russian Government under the recent Anglo-Russian Convention would inevitably be raised by extension of rights of His Majesty's Government under above Conventions.

[33096]

No. 82.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 388.)

Sir,

Peking, August 19, 1907.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 361 of the 23rd ultimo, respecting the negotiation of the Thibet Trade Regulations, I have the honour to inclose a translation of the Wai-wu Pu's note of the 30th ultimo, the substance of which was contained in my telegram No. 155 of the 31st ultimo, stating, on the authority of Chang Tach'en,

that the Thibetan Delegate had full powers under written credentials, and expressing thanks for the arrangements which were being made at Simla for Chang Tach'en's reception.

I have sent a copy of this despatch and its inclosure to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Peking, July 30, 1907.

ACCORDING to a telegram received from Chang Tach'en, Chinese Resident in Thibet, yesterday, Sir Louis Dane has telegraphed to the effect that the Thibetan Delegate ought to be furnished with full powers under written credentials. His Excellency has sent a telegraphic assurance to Sir Louis Dane in reply.

Chang Tach'en adds that Sir Louis Dane has rented a house for him at Simla, and requests the Board to convey through your Excellency an expression of his thanks.

With regard to the furnishing the Thibetan Delegate with full powers under written credentials, the Board have the honour to refer your Excellency to their Memorandum of the 23rd instant. Moreover, Chang Tach'en has given Sir Louis Dane a telegraphic assurance on this point.

The respective credentials can be mutually examined when negotiations start.

We have the honour to request your Excellency to telegraph and ask that Sir Louis Dane may open negotiations at an early date, so that we can inform Chang Tach'en by telegram accordingly.

We will be glad if your Excellency will convey the sense of our gratitude to Sir Louis Dane for the trouble he has taken on Chang Tach'en's behalf, and avail, &c.
(Prince Ch'ing and Ministers.)

[33115]

No. 83.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 408.)

Sir,

Peking, August 22, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 312 of the 26th June, and my telegram No. 142 of the 16th July, regarding the prohibition of entry into Thibet of scientific missions, I have the honour to report that in the course of an interview at the Wai-wu Pu on the 6th August, I asked the Ministers whether the Chinese Government was yet prepared to reply to the proposals made by His Majesty's Government and Russia.

In the absence of the Grand Secretary I was unable to extract any definite answer, but on the following reception day the Grand Secretary Na stated, in reply to my inquiries, that he had spoken to Prince Ch'ing on this question, and that His Highness had observed that China had no intention of rescinding the prohibition which she had always maintained against the entry of foreigners into Thibet. They were perplexed by the proposal, and especially by the suggested time limit of three years.

In order that they might be in a position to see the precise understanding to which it was desired that China should commit herself, I then offered to draw up a draft note, in consultation with my Russian colleague, to be shown to the Wai-wu Pu.

The Grand Secretary concurred in this suggestion. Owing to the indisposition and absence of M. Pokotiloff I have not been able to consult him on the subject until to-day, when he agreed to act in concert with me in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[33159]

No. 84.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 175.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, October 5, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 171 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Minister and myself have received from the Wai-wu Pu an identic Memorandum, stating that China will adhere to the course which she has pursued in the past of not permitting foreigners of any description to travel in Thibet.

With regard to the question of the limits of Thibet, the Memorandum adds that there is no necessity to furnish a definition of them, and no need for a formal communication on the subject, as, no change in the limits having been made, the old limits should be regarded as authoritative.

[33357]

No. 85.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 2nd instant, relative to the negotiations regarding the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, October 5, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, October 2, 1907.

THIBET. See despatch No. 379 of the 7th August from His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

Inquiry received from Foreign Office as to what reply should be made regarding points raised by Sir J. Jordan, viz., definition (1) of term "Thibetan Government;" (2) of extent to which we are prepared to accept Amban as intermediary; and (3) of questions in which we claim to correspond direct with Thibet. I should be glad to receive your views by telegraph.

[33632]

No. 86.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 212.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, October 9, 1907.

REFERRING to your telegram No. 240 of the 8th instant.

M. Goubastoff spoke to me on the 7th instant respecting reply of Chinese Government with regard to Thibet, and I informed him in reply that I thought we could leave matters in present position if Chinese Government were ready to uphold previous interdiction against the entry of foreigners into Thibet, although it had been my impression that foreigners had entered Thibet from the north side. There was evidently no very precise knowledge as regarded the limits of Thibet, but further discussion with the Chinese Government on the subject would probably be unnecessary.

M. Goubastoff understood that these were merely my personal views, and did not dissent from them. Would you, however, wish me to make any formal proposals on the above subjects to the Russian Government, or should I suggest to them that it would appear unnecessary to take any further steps as regards the Chinese Government?

[33759]

No. 87.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of correspondence received from the Government of India relative to Indian trade with Thibet.

India Office, October 10, 1907.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

*Captain O'Connor to Government of India.**Gyantse, July 17, 1907.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter, dated the 13th July from the representatives of the Surat firm of Dhirajlal Natwarlal Brothers and Co., now at Shigatse, to my address for the favour of consideration and of any action which may be regarded as desirable.

2. I would venture to direct the attention of the Government of India in especial to the agent's remarks regarding the suitability as trade marts of Gyantse and Shigatse respectively, and to his references to the terms of Clause III of the Lhasa Convention, wherein the Thibetan Government undertake and consider the advisability of establishing fresh trade marts should the development of trade require it.

3. A copy of this letter and inclosure has been sent to the Political Officer, Sikkim.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

*Mani Shanker R. Bhatt to Captain O'Connor.**Gyantse, July 13, 1907.*

I, THE undersigned Mani Shanker R. Bhatt, agent to Dhirajlal Natwarlal Brothers and Co., most respectfully beg to request your honour to bring to the notice of Government of India the following information :—

That although we are here for more than a month we have not been supplied with a shop or a godown, to which we are entitled according to Treaty provisions, and shopless as we are, we are quite unable to do any business whatsoever, and have to incur heavy expenses. We hope, therefore, that Government of India may be moved to erect shop, godown, and quarters for us in the vicinity of Gyantse, inasmuch as on inquiry we did not find any suitable building in Gyantse.

By clause first of paragraph second of the Convention between Great Britain and Thibet, the Thibetan Government undertakes to open trade marts, to which all British and Thibetan subjects shall have free right of access at Gyantse, Gartok, and Yatung.

With reference to the above clause, I beg to bring to the notice of Government that Gartok and Yatung are practically no marts of trade whatsoever, inasmuch as not the least trade is going on at those two places.

Indian merchants attach a great importance to the said two marts, and when they come here they find themselves, to their greatest amazement, deceived, when they see not the least trade going on at Gartok and Yatung; nay, not a single shop there.

As for Gyantse, even that is no trade mart.

The real trade marts and marts of importance are Sigarchi and Lhasa.

It is distinctly stated in clause three of the second paragraph of the said Convention that, "in addition to establishing trade marts at the places mentioned, the Thibetan Government undertakes to place no restrictions on the trade by existing routes, and to consider the question of establishing fresh trade marts under similar conditions, if development of trade requires it."

With reference to the above clause, I venture to assert, Sir, that the trade is rapidly developing, and the right time has already come when, under the provisions of the above clause, some fresh marts, and especially those of Sigarchi and Lhasa must be left open for Indian merchants, and roads between Gyantse and Sigarchi, and those between Gyantse and Lhasa, may be kept in good repair for the facility of traffic, and dâk-bungalows may be erected at short intervals between Gyantse and Sigarchi, as well as between Gyantse and Lhasa, and vast and commodious dâk-bungalows may be erected at Sigarchi and Lhasa.

I draw your attention, Sir, to the necessity of impressing upon the mind of Government the fact that Sigarchi is the centre of trade of Thibet, and it is Sigarchi where roads meet from Lhasa, Ladakh, Nepal, and India, and unless Sigarchi is left open to Indian merchants it is no use trading in Thibet.

Hoping Government will bestow full attention upon the matter of leaving Sigarchi, the centre of the trade of Thibet, open soon as possible to Indian merchants, and begging to be excused for the trouble.

Inclosure 3 in No. 87.

Mr. H. Haywood to Government of India.

Calcutta, June 7, 1907.

I AM directed by the Indian Tea Association Committee to invite your attention to previous correspondence, ending with Mr. Parson's letter dated the 20th March, 1906, upon the promotion of the trade in Indian tea with Thibet.

2. You are aware that the Committee deputed Mr. James Hutchison to Szechuan in order to enable them to obtain information in regard to the Chinese methods of manufacturing brick tea, which is the quality chiefly consumed by the Thibetans; but although the process of manufacturing suitable bricks is now understood by Indian planters, difficulties are being experienced in introducing the bricks into the country. To overcome these difficulties it has been suggested by Captain O'Connor, R.A., British Trade Agent at Gyantse, that the Committee should send an agent to make inquiries, and to suggest methods of pushing the trade. For the information of Government, I am to say that the Committee have adopted this suggestion, and have commissioned Mr. A. C. R. de Righi, of Darjeeling, to make investigations on their behalf and to submit a report, together with such recommendations as may seem to him to be feasible. Mr. de Righi will start for Thibet on or about the 5th July, and he has, the Committee understand, obtained the necessary permit from your Department. Captain O'Connor has kindly offered to give such assistance as may be possible to any agent appointed by the Committee, and they have asked him to extend his kindness to Mr. de Righi.

3. A copy of any report which Mr. de Righi may submit will be forwarded to Government in due course.

Inclosure 4 in No. 87.

Government of India to Mr. H. Haywood.

Simla, July 5, 1907.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 7th June, 1907, and to state that the Government of India have permitted Mr. A. C. R. de Righi to visit Gyantse for a period not exceeding three months. The Government of India will be glad to receive a copy of any report that Mr. de Righi may submit on the results of his tour.

Inclosure 5 in No. 87.

Captain O'Connor to Government of India.

Gyantse, June 23, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to draw your attention to the fact that the Indian Tea Association Committee has deputed Mr. A. C. R. de Righi to represent their interests in Thibet, and that this gentleman proposes to start for Thibet early next month upon this

and other business, and has secured a permit from the Foreign Department for the purpose. May I venture to remind you that the tea interest is one which should bulk largely in our commercial relations with Thibet in the future, and that it is very desirable that all possible encouragement should now be given to the agent representing its Committee. I have already directed your attention to the difficulty which I now experience in affording adequate facilities to British or Indian traders arriving at Gyantse, and I would venture again to urge the desirability of impressing upon the Thibetan authorities with [*sic*] the necessity of conforming strictly with the provisions of the Lhasa Convention, and of entering immediately upon those personal relations with the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, which alone can insure for our traders those rights to which they now deem themselves to be entitled.

2. A copy of this letter has been sent to the Political Officer Sikkim.

Inclosure 6 in No. 87.

Mr. A. de Righi to Government of India.

Drum-Druid Hotel, Darjeeling, May 10, 1907.

I HAVE been advised by Captain O'Connor, Trade Agent, Gyantse, to apply to you for a permit to visit that place as a trader this year, starting from Darjeeling early in July.

I was granted permission last year, but owing to sickness I was unable to take advantage of the pass.

My intention is to go up to gauge, as far as can be done in two or three months' trading, what the possibilities and wants are, and to see if a successful business could be started. If so, I am seriously thinking, with the Indian Government's permission, to settle myself permanently in Thibet as a trader.

I inclose herewith a letter from the President of the Darjeeling Planters' Association, which explains itself.

Trusting the necessary pass will be granted me as soon as convenient, to enable me to make my preparations for the journey, and thanking you in anticipation of a favourable reply.

Inclosure 7 in No. 87.

Mr. N. Irwin to Mr. A. de Righi.

Moondakotee, Sonada, May 3, 1907.

YOUR letter of the 29th ultimo is duly to hand, and, in reply, I write to inform you that the Committee of the Indian Tea Association have written to me, asking if I can recommend a suitable man as agent for the purpose of pushing Indian tea in Thibet.*

I have forwarded to them your application, and strongly recommended you for the post.

I will write to you again when I hear further on the subject.

Inclosure 8 in No. 87.

Government of India to Mr. A. de Righi.

Simla, May 30, 1907.

IN reply to your letter dated the 10th May, 1907, I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have no objection to your visiting Gyantse for a period not exceeding three months, for purposes of trade, subject to the condition that you will follow the usual road via Chumbi to that place without deviation.

2. I am also to state that you should obtain from the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling, a pass permitting you to cross what is known as the "inner line" in the Darjeeling district.

* See Gyantse Trade Reports for the quarter ending December 31, 1906.

Inclosure 9 in No. 87.

Mr. A. de Righi to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Gyantse, August 12, 1907.

ALTHOUGH I have come here at great expense and trouble, I have been unable to do that which my expectations led me to believe by the Lhasa Treaty, in consequence of which I have had to return to India at great loss. Although the British Trade Agent did his best in every way, he could not secure me the accommodation for my requirements. Apart from this, it is a misnomer to call Gyantse a trade mart, only petty trade being transacted here, whereas Shigatse is the centre of all trade; but my misfortune in being a European prevented me from going there—in the country one is led to believe has been opened out for free trade by a costly Mission; at the same time, nothing prevents an Indian trader here from going to Shigatse and Lhasa, which he intends doing in a few days' time; the consequence of which gives the Indian native trader an unfair advantage over the European trader. I am writing further on these points, as well as the difficulties of transport between India and Chumbi, which is extortionate and ruinous to trade.

[33632]

No. 88.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 108.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 11, 1907.

PROHIBITION of scientific missions and question of boundaries of Thibet.

Please refer to your telegram No. 175 of the 5th instant, and Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 212 of the 9th instant.

Unless you see any reason for pursuing the question further with the Chinese Government, we do not propose to do so.

[33947]

No. 89.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 177.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, October 12, 1907.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 107 and 108 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to say that I have consulted my Russian colleague, who agrees with me in considering that nothing would be gained by pursuing the question with the Chinese Government. Although the latter may be unable strictly to enforce the prohibition in practice, they will doubtless uphold it in principle.

[33980]

No. 90.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 511.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, October 9, 1907.

M. GOUBASTOFF told me the day before yesterday that he had received a telegram from the Russian Minister at Peking to the effect that the Chinese Government had stated that they had never granted permission to foreigners to proceed to Thibet, and that therefore there was no occasion to make any special regulations on the subject; and that as regards the boundaries of Thibet they were such as had already existed, and that there was no occasion to specify them.

I told M. Goubastoff that in my personal opinion if the Chinese Government intended to refuse permission to foreigners to proceed to Thibet the views of the two Governments would be sufficiently met, though I had been under the impression that M. Sven Hedin and others had entered Thibet from the Chinese provinces. As to the boundaries, it would be probably difficult to obtain any precise information in regard to them, and that perhaps the matter could be left where it was.

The request for a definition of the limits of Thibet had originated from the Russian Government, and the views of the latter as to the boundaries did not coincide

with those of the Government of India. China is evidently unwilling or unable to give a precise definition of the Tibetan frontiers, and it would, I submit, be difficult for the two Governments of Great Britain and of Russia to do so on the incomplete and possibly conflicting data in their respective archives. Unless the Russian Government express a decided wish that further steps should be taken towards a common understanding on the subject, I would venture to suggest that the question should remain dormant.

With respect to the entry of scientific missions into Thibet, I had the honour to receive your telegram No. 240, repeating telegram No. 175 from Sir J. Jordan, giving the substance of the Memorandum from the Wai-wu Pu in regard to the above question. I do not know if you would consider the statement of the Chinese Government that they have "not in the past permitted foreigners to travel in Thibet," and do not intend to do so in the future as sufficiently prohibitive. It has occurred to me that the Chinese Government might make a distinction between not permitting and actually prohibiting, and might consider that their responsibility ceased at the point of not actually according permission while making no effort to prevent a mission from proceeding. This is a matter on which others far more competent than myself can express an opinion, and may be one which you may consider as not necessarily requiring explanation. I merely venture to indicate it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[34379]

No. 91.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 12th September, relative to affairs of Thibet.

India Office, October 16, 1907.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Major Smith to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Residency, Nepal, August 28, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a summary of a news-letter received by the Prime Minister from Major Bhairab Bahadur, the Nepalese officer in charge of the Mission to Peking.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MANNERS SMITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Summary of a News-letter received by the Prime Minister of Nepal from Kazi Major Bhairab Bahadur, Nepalese Envoy to Peking.

I LEFT Bathang on Tuesday, the 21st May, 1907, and reached Lithang on the 27th May, 1907.

Lithang is at a higher altitude than Bathang, and is snowy like the Kam country. It is about the size of the Nepal Valley. The town consists of about 2,000 houses, inclusive of those attached to the monastery.

The country is barren and devoid of cultivation, but rich in gold, which is busily being worked both by mining operations and gold washing.

Formerly Lithang was under the control of the local monastery, and the administration of the country was carried out by two Dhebas appointed by it. The monastery numbered some 6,700 monks, but it is now reduced to about 3,000. When the recent fighting took place between Bathang and China the Dhebas of Lithang assisted the

former, and the country has in consequence shared the fate of Bathang, and has been brought under the direct administration of Chinese officials.

The chief military officer is a Dhautai, and he has 2,500 men under his command, of whom some 350 are present in Lithang. They have furnished a detachment to Bathang and have dispatched a party to destroy the Syakling Monastery.

The Dhautai is a young man of about 27 or 28, who has been educated in Japan. He is a resident of Peking, by name Lin Yan Khon. He called on me on the 1st June, 1907, and made many inquiries about Nepal and her relations with Thibet. He informed me that he was proceeding to Lhasa and would start with his troops as soon as matters were satisfactorily settled in Bathang and Lithang, and that it was the intention of China to make vast improvements in the military organization, mines, and agriculture of Thibet. In addition to soldiering he appears to know something himself of mining, and has been personally visiting the surrounding hills to examine the mines, accompanied by men and implements. It is said that he will proceed with 2,500 soldiers and military stores via Dhaya and Chhyamdo, and, after bringing them under Chinese control, advance farther down to Lhasa.

Supplies are being collected at Bathang, and military stores in Lithang.

I hear that the Tang Tarin Amba of Lhasa has sent a special courier to this place to expedite the dispatch of rifles and ammunition to Lhasa.

On Wednesday, the 5th June, 1907, a fresh body of 300 troops from Thindafu marched into Lithang.

On the 1st June, 1907, after the Dhautai left, I received a visit from two Chinese officers of the telegraph office and two other officers of the rank of Major-Captain. They also made many inquiries and showed an interest in Nepal.

From the manner in which the Chinese Bharadars made inquiries of me, and also by their tone and demeanour, it seems to me that suspicion has been aroused in the minds of the Chinese that Thibet is favourably inclined towards the British and that the relations of Nepal are also friendly with them; so China, with a view to extend her authority over Thibet before the British, Nepalese, and Thibetans join hands, appears to be making haste to occupy Lhasa and place her authority on a firm footing there.

I have heard that the Potala Lama is on his way to Lhasa accompanied by Chinese officers and men. From private inquiries I learn that the Potala Lama after his arrival in Lhasa will be allowed to have his former rights and privileges only if he keeps within proper bounds; but if he does not, and attempts to make any secret overtures with any foreign Government and to show dissatisfaction with the management of affairs by China, then China will proceed to destroy the power of the monasteries and make suitable arrangements for administering the country.

I met the French missionary of Bathang about three marches this side of Bathang, but had no conversation with him.

I hear a rumour that the American gentleman whom I met at Bathang had a quarrel with the Thibetans in the district of Yanchin while on his way to Burmah, in the course of which he shot one of the Thibetans, and that he is now a prisoner in their hands.

Dated the 12th June, 1907.

Inclosure 3 in No. 91.

Major Smith to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Nepal, August 14, 1907

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of the Government of India, translations of three letters from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa, together with the Thibetan letter referred to in the letter dated the 20th Asarh (4th July, 1907) sent to me by his Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal.

The Minister has requested that the Thibetan paper may be returned when done with, together with a copy of its translation in English.

Inclosure 4 in No. 91.

Letters from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa.

(Translation.)

(Extracts.)

THE Thirring Pochhe Lama went on to say that the other day he was sent for by the Tang Tarin Amba, when the latter told him that on representation being made to His Majesty the Emperor of China an order has been received at Lhasa to dismiss three men, viz., the Dhami (oracle) of the Nechhang Bhimsen, the Chikhiap Khembu, and Donger Chhemu, from their present appointments as personal attendants of the Potala Lama and drive them away from his presence, and that he (the Thirring Pochhe Lama) should issue necessary orders on the subject to the Kazies of the Kasyal without reference to the Chhongdui Council; that at this (the Lama) told the Amba that the Dhami or oracle of Nechhang and the two others were still with the Potala Lama, and so it would almost be impracticable to lay hands upon their property or do anything else without referring the matter to the said Lama; that in consequence he would beg the Amba to speak on the subject also to the Kazies; that a few days after that the Amba sent for him again, as well as the Kazies, to talk on that very subject; whereupon the Kazies, after their return from the Amba's place, assembled at his (the Thirring Pochhe Lama's) place to think over the matter, and came to the conclusion that, it being impossible for them to veto the Amba's order, they should tell the Amba that they would, as a matter of course, carry out his order; and all that they would beg of him was a few days' respite before taking any action in the matter, the respite so gained to be utilized in referring the matter to the Potala Lama, who was sure to give them his views in the matter for their guidance; that it was not known whether the Amba would agree to that proposal or would hasten to confiscate the property of the said Dhami or oracle, to which the Amba seemed to have set his eyes with a view to utilize it towards meeting the expenses for the raising of the new army; and that, from what the Amba had been thinking of doing away with several of the Potala Lama's personal attendants, it looked as if the line of policy now followed by the Peking Government aimed at the curtailment of the power or authority of the said Lama. The Thirring Pochhe Lama also informed me that the Thibetan authorities at Lhasa, having received information some 800 soldiers have been brought up at Dhomo by the British, went to report the matter to the Amba, when they were assured by the latter that even the collection of 8,000 or 10,000 soldiers, not to speak of hundreds, would not mean any harm to them, because the British would never think of, nor dare to, go against the provisions of the Treaty without being guilty of a grave offence, for which they would be held responsible. We then talked about our missing letters, and I told the Lama that inquiries made so far showed that the postal clerk (Chinese) of Nagarchay was the man who has not been able to account for those letters, upon which the Lama said that when once the man who had committed the mischief has been found out the missing letters would also be forthcoming from him by and by. After this the Lama wanted to go away, and I, after having thanked him for his kindly purifying my house with his holy presence, took leave of him.

By the rules and customs of the country, one can hold the post of the Thirring Pochhe Lama and perform the works connected with that post at the Golden Monastery only for a period of seven years. The Thirring Pochhe Lama's tenure of that office having now expired, this rank or title, together with all the duties appertaining thereto, have been given to the next senior Lama, who is of Chhomolinka, and so the former's engagement at this time is to look to the affairs of the State only.

With due respect I beg to inform your Highness that on Saturday, the 15th Ashar, in the morning, I paid a visit to the Thirring Pochhe Lama. In the course of our conversation he expressed to me his regret that the Thibetan officials and people in general at Lhasa thought of nothing else but filling their own belly, and for their sinful inclinations God has punished them by withholding the timely rains from them; that the owners of large quantities of grain rather liked to see it rot in their granaries than sell it out for the benefit of the public; that even the Kazies, not to speak of others, professed poverty of grain with them, when he (Thirring Pochhe Lama) by way of an example gave out 100 bos of wheat (though he was one who possessed very little, being a monk who had no worldly effects) for sale and enjoined others to do the same to relieve the tension in the market. I said that those good old days were gone when

people were all virtuous, and now, since time has changed and the people were not so good as they were before, the policy of the Government in ruling over them should also be modified accordingly, but that there was one thing which had struck me as strange, and which was the want of regard shown by all in the country to the orders issued by the Government through the Kasyal, and this, I thought, would now be rectified since he (Thirring Pochhe Lama) has received the rank of "Numihet" from the Chinese Emperor and a letter from the Potala Lama making him fully responsible for the proper administration of the country. The Thirring Pochhe Lama replied that he the other day drew attention of the Kazies and the Chhongdui Council to those facts, and told them that, since he would be required to account for the good or bad administration of the country for the time being, he expected that all of them would implicitly obey him and carry out his wishes, and they might rest assured that he would absolve them from any blame for the results of any of the acts committed by them by his order, as he himself in that case was fully prepared to entirely take upon himself any blame or a good name that might arise therefrom.

On Monday, the 17th Ashar, Seay, the Chinese officer whom the Lyang Tarin Amba has recently got down from Thindafu, and who was at my place the other day, sent me a message through the Sunseay inviting me to the yamên to see the drilling of the Chinese soldiers which was to take place that day. Thinking it advisable to go, I went. He received me kindly, and, seating me on a chair close by which he also sat, began to talk to the following effect:—

That, Japan being considered the best for training troops, the Japanese mode of drilling soldiers has been adopted in Peking, and he has been trying to introduce it among the Chinese soldiers here at Lhasa, and has already given them some elementary lessons, though he found them and their officers to be so very much addicted to taking opium that one could hardly expect to see them turn out good soldiers; that a proposal of raising some 5,000 or 6,000 local troops had been set afoot by the Amba, who has also been moving towards giving effect to it, but it is doubted whether the people here with all their bad habits of eating opium would give good recruits for it; that he has heard much of the martial qualities of the Gurkhas, and some 500 or 1,000 of them would have to be secured, for which my assistance would be required; and that those proposed troops would be maintained at the cost of the Government of China, and the Amba has been in communication with his Government for the sanction of the required amount. I replied that lots of men would be available if the money required be forthcoming, but as regards the question of the Gurkhas which he has mentioned or referred to, I told him plainly that I was quite unable to afford any assistance or make any promise, and that if the Amba wished to speak to me in the matter, I could only, when he did so, report the matter to my Government. He then asked me the number of troops and their regiments in Nepal, to which I replied that there were eighty-five regiments, some containing 1,000, some 700, and some 500 men. After this he showed me the drilling of the Chinese soldiers, who were about eighty-five in number all told. The movements of their feet and the motion of their arms somewhat resembled ours. At its termination he asked me what I thought of it, to which I replied that it was a good sight. He then said that nobody could be expected to be perfect in any knowledge, so if I ever found any flaw it might be kindly pointed out to him. He remarked that the soldiers have not been provided with dress, but the Amba has passed an order to make black dresses for them of smart cut or fashion. He, however, thought a uniform of khaki colour would be the best, the more so in action, and said so to the Amba, who, however, said that black dress might be prepared for the time being. He then went on to say that it should be a rule to enlist only such men as would answer certain physical conditions, and he was sorry to find that among the few men before him some were tall, others were short, while some were thin and lean so as to look quite incapable of doing anything. I then took leave of him and came away. I think it likely that these Chinese will trouble us in the matter of obtaining Gurkha soldiers.

[33980]

No. 92.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 17, 1907.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 11th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith copies of a despatch from His

Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg,* and a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking,† relative to the questions of the definition of the boundaries of Thibet and of the prohibition of scientific missions entering that country.

Sir E. Grey proposes, with the concurrence of Mr. Secretary Morley, to reply to Sir A. Nicolson and to Sir J. Jordan that His Majesty's Government consider that nothing would be gained by pursuing either of the questions further.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[34656]

No. 93.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 409.)

Sir,

Peking, August 26, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith extracts from reports on the little-known native States which lie on the borders of Szechuan and Eastern Thibet. These reports had been kindly placed at the disposal of the Acting British Consul-General at Chengtu by the Rev. J. H. Edgar, of the China Inland Mission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Extracts from Reports by the Rev. J. Edgar respecting Native States on the Borders of Szechuan and Eastern Thibet.

The Chia Rung States.

THIS paper deals with the Chia Rung States of Badi Bawang, Chos Chia, Damba, Chogs Chi, rTsung Kang, Langskar, Somo, Wassü, and the feudal States of Tsa Ku Lao, Hsia Mou, and Shang Mou, Kanpo and Chiu Tzü. I shall first describe their political status in relation to Peking; secondly, the influence of lamaism in relation to Lhasa; and, thirdly, the prospects of mission work in these regions.

These States cover the country directly west of Kuan Hsien and Sungpan, having an area, roughly speaking, of 300 miles from west to east, and 400 miles from north to south. This territory seems to have puzzled geographers, and as a rule the States are not marked on the map, or, if some are marked, their relative positions are incorrectly given. In some maps they are included in Thibet; in others they are made to form part of the Province of Szechuan. Quite arbitrarily map-makers have run a line through the middle of these States, labelling one side Thibet and the other China. Why, for instance, are Badi Bawang, Somo, and Wassü merged into Szechuan, while Chos Chia, Damba, and Langskar are made to belong to Thibet? As a matter of fact, all these States are independent, their Rulers being thoroughgoing despots who seldom, if ever, pay any attention to China's claims of suzerainty. They wage intertribal wars without asking China's permission or invoking her aid; they are not, as is the case with the feudal States, bound to render China military service, and as a rule there are no Chinese permanently settled in the territory, nor are Chinese advisers appointed to the native Courts.

The following exception may, however, be noted: In a few States Chinese have founded colonies, and there are Chinese officials with, as it were, Consular functions whose jurisdiction only extends to their own people. These colonists usually marry native women, but their offspring are classed as Chinese subjects. But Chinese who enter the States for trade, protection, or adventure must submit to the authority of the native Rulers. They become naturalized, in which case they marry native women—Chinese women rarely cross the border—and their children speak their mother's language and adopt her nationality. Chinese are insulted, and sometimes murdered, in these States with impunity; Chinese officials are often denied admission. In 1903 the writer's

* No. 90.

† No. 89.

Chinese escort was peremptorily ordered out of Chos Chia, no explanation being given. In most cases the foreign traveller in these States will find his Chinese passport quite useless, possibly a cause of suspicion and obstruction.

It is obvious, therefore, whatever the maps may say, that these native States cannot be included in China proper; it is doubtful whether the suzerainty claimed by China over the imperfectly known regions of Inner and Outer Thibet is anything more than a name. In the temporal affairs of the Chia Rung States China has no voice; in spiritual affairs they acknowledge the supremacy and direction of the lama hierarchy in Lhasa. Politically and ecclesiastically the boundary of China runs through the districts of Ya Chou, Kuan Hsien, Wên Ch'uan, and Mao Chou. Theoretically the country west of this line, *i.e.*, the Chia Rung States, is tributary to China, and under the jurisdiction of the Viceroy of Szechuan; practically they acknowledge no obedience save that of fear. Their position is analogous to that of the independent and semi-independent native States in India.

The districts in the neighbourhood of Mao Chou and Li Fan T'ing are, however, more directly controlled by China. Tsa Ku Lao, Shang, and Hsia Mou and Kanpo have resident Chinese military officials, and the natives hold their land under the feudal system.

Lamaism is all-powerful in the Chia Rung States, and appears in three different forms, the Yellow, Red, and Black systems. The former, first in importance and numbers, is the State religion, and owns as its heads the Pontiffs at Lhasa and Tasilumpo. The people of these States are bound by the strongest ties of race instincts, education, and religion to Lhasa. It is their holy city and the abode of their gods. To it all lamas who aspire to rule their fellows go for study; all appointments to official posts in the Church are made by Lhasa. It is the place of pilgrimage for all devout tribesmen, what Jerusalem was to the Jews and Mecca to the Mahomedans.

The Red, or Nying, sect of lamas is, as I have said, not so influential as the Yellow. They are regarded as unorthodox, although their priests often study in Lhasa. Their ritual is not so elaborate as that of the Yellow, but otherwise their temples and religious symbols differ little from those of the "Established Church." Their priests are allowed to marry, and are therefore objects of scorn to their orthodox brethren. The sect, although not officially recognized, is tolerated by China.

The Bönpo, or Black, sect of lamaism is a mystery, and awaits investigation. If it were not for an outward conformity with the ritual of the Yellow and Red Churches we should be tempted to dissociate it from Buddhism altogether. It is apparently the remains of the old nature-worship of Thibet, which probably underlies most of the religious systems of the East. It has always been regarded as the enemy of the Gelugpa, or orthodox lamaism, and as such has been ruthlessly persecuted. The Bönpos defy the Gelugpa in many ways: they refuse to repeat the mystic formula, "Om mani padmi hom"; they pass sacred objects with the left instead of the right side turned towards the idol; they perversely turn their prayer-wheels from left to right, instead of *vice versa*. The Bönpo temples differ entirely from those of the Gelugpa and Nyingpa, and are usually strikingly picturesque. The Bönpo temple at Linka, in Badi Bawang, is a fine building, and here may be seen indisputable proofs, in the form of grossly indecent male and female idols, of the phallic tendencies of their worship. The priests assert that their principal symbol is the famous cross, or "svastika," known to the Thibetans as the "yungdrung." The "chyong," or "garuda," a mystical bird, is also in great favour with the Bön; it is regarded as an emblem of fruitfulness, and is also supposed to be the general factotum of the gods.

Notwithstanding the persecutions it has been subjected to, Bönism has obtained a firmer hold on the people of these States than any other religion. I found the priests uniformly friendly, and I consider their moral character quite equal to, if not better than, their orthodox brethren. The supreme deity of the Bön is called "Kun Zang Nam Sum."

I consider the Chia Rung States a most favourable field for carefully directed missionary enterprise. It is conveniently situated close to China proper, but isolated from other mission stations. Kuan Hsien would be the natural head-quarters of the Chia Rung Mission. Wassü is only 40 miles distant, on the right bank of the Min, and following the same road over the Pan Lan Mountains one arrives at Mou Kong (Mu Kung T'ing). The famous North Road to Sungpan passes through Kuan Hsien, branching off at Weichou to Li Fan T'ing. Beyond Kuan Hsien are three places from which missionary work in unknown and populous regions might be conducted: Tsa Ku Lao, four days' march from Kuan Hsien, an important Chia Rung centre on the borders of the Somo territory; Mou Kong, eight days west of Kuan Hsien,

in the midst of the Chia Rung highlands, has an important Chinese colony (from here access could be gained to the independent States of Somo, Damba, Chos Chia, Chogs Chi, and rTsong Kang, as well as countless small tribes in the Muping district); Romei Chango, besides being a meeting place for the men of Chala, Badi Bawang, Kas Stag, and a populous territory east of Dawo, would form an excellent base from which to work the countless Chia Rung tribes in the Tsung Hua and Hsu Chung regions to the north. Only four days away from Romei Chango are the independent States of Chogs Chi and Damba.

The lamaseries in this region are distributed as follows: Bawang, 300 lamas; the Bön lamasery at Linka, 120; the Yellow lamasery at the same place, 350; the large lamasery at Tsung Hua, subsidized by the Chinese Government, and known as Fa Kuang Ssu, 500. In all, there are probably quite 1,500 lamas in this region.

Conditions are favourable, in spite of the warlike spirit of the people, their intense superstition, and some undesirable customs. I strongly suspect that in mediæval times the Chia Rung States formed part of a Confederation known as the Nü Kuo, or "Matriarchal Kingdoms." The rulers appear to have been women, and inheritance of power and property passed down in the female line. Relics of this system are still to be found. Damba is said to be ruled by a woman, and women sometimes rule in Somo. In Badi Bawang the most influential person at the present time is a woman. Certainly women, after the lamas, are the dominant factor in most of these States.

I estimate the population of this region very roughly to be as follows: Badi Bawang, 20,000; Chos Chia, 150,000; Somo, Langskar, rTsong Kang, and Damba, 310,000; Kas Stag, 12,000; Wassü and Muping, 30,000; Tsung Hua and Hsü Ching, 30,000; Feudal States (Tsa Ku Lao, &c.), 30,000. Total, 612,000. This estimate does not include the thickly populated region which embraces the head-waters of the T'ung River to the south of Sungpan.

The Chia Rung live in settlements of from 50 to 500 families, most admirably suited for defence. They are situated high up on the mountain-sides, and, practically inaccessible from above, they command all approaches from below. Their houses are evidently constructed for defensive purposes. Built of solid blocks of stone, they are usually three, sometimes four, storeys high, surmounted by a flat roof with battlements, the walls pierced with loopholes and narrow windows. In the lower courtyard are the sheep-pens and cow-houses, kitchen, and guest-rooms. There are, of course, no chimneys, and it is difficult to understand how the inmates of the upper rooms escape suffocation when the doors are closed for the night. The flat roof is used for religious exercises, eating, sleeping, and recreation; in harvest time it acts as a threshing-floor.

The trade of these districts is entirely in the hands of Chinese, who find a ready market for their wares in the "courts" of the native "kings" and the big lamaseries. The Chia Rungs find a profitable employment in digging for drugs, such as rhubarb, aconite, peppermint, liquorice, &c., which they take down to Kuan Hsien and barter for rolls of cloth, tea, trinkets, and cutlery. The States formerly produced large quantities of gold, but in some places the mines appear to have been exhausted, and in others mining is forbidden by the lamas on religious grounds.

The lives of the Chia Rung are taken up with agricultural and pastoral pursuits. The valleys between the mountains are covered with crops of maize, wheat, barley, and various fruits. On the mountain-sides flocks of sheep and goats and herds of cattle and horses find rich pasture. Milk and butter are the staple foods, and mutton, beef, wild-fowl, and fish can always be obtained. The horses are disposed of to Chinese traders; the wool is all woven into cloth and used locally.

The Chia Rung are the gun-makers of the border and Eastern Thibet. Thousands of strong, serviceable gun-barrels are made in Somo and the feudal States and sold to Chinese, nomads, and robbers. The Chia Rung carry their guns for sale all over Thibet. They are also famous builders. Their own houses, forts, and towers bear ample testimony to their architectural skill, and much of the heavy masonry in the Ch'engtü Plain, such as dams, walls, reservoirs, and wells, are their handiwork.

The T'ung is the only river of any importance, but rapids render it useless as a waterway. However, in the Romei Chango and Hsü Ching districts coracles ply down the river, taking passengers and a limited amount of luggage. There is practically no coolie traffic beyond Mou Kong, transport being by mule, pony, or yak.

In the Chia Rung States woman has an undoubted status, but to obtain it she has had to abandon her modesty and most of her feminine graces. The Chia Rung women lead a strenuous life: they cultivate the fields, tend the flocks, take the farm produce to market, hew wood, and carry water. The domestic duties of cooking, making and mending clothes, washing, and housekeeping generally devolve upon the men. The

result is that the former are extremely coarse and unwomanlike in appearance and manner, while the latter often exhibit qualities more in harmony with our Western ideas of refinement. I do not think the women are unkindly treated; they seem well suited to the free, outdoor life they lead, and certainly do not look unhappy or downtrodden. Chia Rung families are small, but the children are usually healthy. Girls marry between the ages of 17 and 20. Polygamy is common, but polyandry rare, except in the remote mountainous districts. Temporary marriages, so common in other parts of Eastern Thibet, are unknown in most of the Chia Rung States.

Ulag in Eastern Thibet.

The traveller in Thibet will not have proceeded very far beyond the bounds of China proper before he becomes acquainted with a system known as "ulag," sometimes written "ula." The word seems to be of Mongolian origin, but is well known in the Chia Rung regions, and, as it finds a place in the Thibetan dictionary of Jaschke, we may consider it a common term throughout Thibet.

Ulag is a species of socage service rendered to Princes, Government officials, and priests. China, in order to maintain her suzerain powers in Thibet, is obliged to keep a large staff of officials in the country, and these, owing to the necessity of maintaining the dignity of their position in the eyes of the Thibetans and the exigencies of their mode of life, require not only a large body of retainers and soldiers, but also provisions, ammunition, and the means of transporting money and goods. As the term of service for Chinese officials in Thibet is only three years, it will be readily understood that official travelling expenses would be a most serious item in the public account if the Government were obliged to defray these expenses itself. Recourse is therefore had to the system of ulag, under which, in return for a grant of lands adjacent to the great highways, the native tenants are obliged to provide means of transport from one stage to another. The control of the system is in the hands of the native Chiefs, who form settlements at convenient places along the main roads, where a fixed number of animals are kept for the transport service. Merchants and, generally speaking, foreigners are not entitled to ulag, and they are supposed to make their own transport arrangements with the native Chiefs and the lamaseries. This method is usually most unsatisfactory, as the following example will show:—

The native Chief, having informed the traveller that he has no power to grant ulag, offers to assist him in procuring pack animals. The unwary traveller falls into the trap, accepts the offer, and pays cash down for transport through the Chief's territory. The price paid seems fair, and the traveller starts off his caravan, in charge of a Headman supplied by the Chief, congratulating himself on being able to escape the vexatious delays of the ulag. Alas! he soon finds that his money has gone into the Chief's coffers, and that he is dependent on the truculent ulag owners after all. Having paid the full amount due in advance, the traveller naturally refuses to make any further payments *en route*, with the result that he is provided with the worst animals, is constantly delayed, and acquires a reputation for meanness among the natives. Often the lamas step in and absolutely refuse animals until extra payment has been made. It usually ends in his having to pay double the price he would have done had he, at the outset, insisted on receiving ulag. After such experiences the traveller, although on moral grounds he may condemn the ulag system, finds himself practically forced to make use of it. Theoretically there is nothing very wrong in the system, and when first instituted it was doubtless advantageous to all concerned, but it has been seriously abused by unscrupulous Chinese and Thibetan officials, and it has afforded an opportunity for "squeezes" which the avaricious lama has not failed to turn to his own profit. And now along the official roads crumbling ruins and a growing desolation tell of the failure of a system which, innocuous in itself, has been ruined by the avarice and oppression of the country's rulers. In the region between Ta Chien Lu and Batang families are constantly migrating to less public districts, away from the main roads, in order to escape the exactions of the ulag and its managers.

The nature of the ulag varies in different districts, but the transport is usually effected by mules, horses, cattle and yak. In Badi Bawang, U Tong, and Chala porters are common. They only carry very small loads for very short stages, and will take no responsibility for the safety of their burdens. In these districts no remuneration is expected, and the work is usually done by women and girls, even small children being pressed into the service.

The yaks and oxen used for ulag are usually fairly good specimens of their kind, but not so the horses. These are often animals strayed or stolen from caravans or the riff-raff of the border markets. The blind, halt, and sick unto death are all employed, and when unfit for further service their hides fetch a small price in the lowland markets.

[35078]

No. 94.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.—(Communicated by India Office, October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 22, 1907.

AT a meeting of the Commissioners for the revision of the Thibetan Trade Regulations, which took place yesterday, Sir L. Dane discussed the preamble proposed in the draft Regulations put forward by Chang Ta-chen (see copy sent with letter from Secretary in Foreign Department of the 3rd October). With a view to avoiding difficulties, the suggestion was first made by Sir L. Dane that no preamble should be adopted, this being in accordance with the precedent of the Regulations of 1893. In his character as a Plenipotentiary, Chang demurred to this, whereupon it was pointed out by Sir L. Dane that it would be necessary to make alterations in the second clause of the preamble, since a description was given of the Tsarong Shape as appointed by the Emperor of China, to be under Chang's direction, whereas, in point of fact, the Thibetan authorities had made the appointment, and he (Sir L. Dane) had received instructions to lay stress on a fully authorized Thibetan Representative being appointed. Sir L. Dane suggested a version of this clause amended as below, saying that he was ready to recommend it to his Government, though it was not altogether according to the terms of his own Commission :—

"His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Majesty the Emperor of China, have named for this purpose, as Plenipotentiaries on their behalf, viz., His Majesty the King Sir Louis Dane, His Majesty the Emperor Chang Ta-chen, and the high authorities of Thibet have named as their Plenipotentiary the Tsarong Shape, fully authorized to act under Chang Ta-chen's direction."

Chang stated that he was unwilling to accept the proposed amendment. He said the Shape was appointed not by Thibet but by the Emperor of China, and claimed that in reality the negotiations were being conducted between the British Government and the Chinese Government, Thibet, except through China, not having a voice in the matter. He desired also to omit the following words from the opening clause in his draft preamble :—

"And whereas in Article III of the Treaty between India and Thibet it was stipulated that the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893 require amendment."

It was unnecessary, according to his statement, to refer to the 1904 Convention with Thibet, for the reason that it had been "rectified" by the Convention of 1906 with the Chinese, so as to eliminate all rights of autonomy possessed by Thibet. It was pointed out by Sir L. Dane that the high authorities of Thibet had in fact appointed the Shape, and he referred, as evidence of this, to the terms of the credentials of the Shape, and to the correspondence between His Majesty's Minister at Peking and the Wai-wu Pu, which the former forwarded to Foreign Office in his despatch dated the 23rd July last. He pointed out at the same time that the first Article of the Convention with China of 1906 confirmed the 1904 Convention with Thibet, in the third Article of which the Thibetan Government gave an undertaking for the appointment of a Delegate for the negotiation of Trade Regulations, and that the provision of which China and Great Britain engaged to secure the fulfilment was a provision of the Convention of 1904, not, as Chang contended, of the Convention of 1906. Chang, however, would not assent, contending that all administrative authority in Thibet has its source from China. Another illustration of Chang's attitude is to be found in the fact that he told the Tsarong Shape at the interview that there was no necessity for him to read the Thibetan copy of the Lhasa Convention which had been given him, as that Convention had been changed, thus repeating the statement made by the Ti Rimpoche to Trade Agent at Gyantse in a letter dated the 2nd February last, copy of which was forwarded with letter from Secretary in Foreign Department of the 9th May last. Further, it has been claimed by the Shape in an English letter,

addressed to Sir L. Dane, and doubtless inspired by Chang, that there is no necessity for any Thibetan text of the Trade Regulations beyond the texts in Chinese and English, for the reason that none of the arrangements about Thibet contain any Thibetan text. "Thibet," it was also stated by the Shape, "is in the same relation to China as India to England." The position may be summed up as follows:—

On behalf of China Chang claims sovereignty, as well as suzerainty, over Thibet, together with full administrative authority in Thibet, even to the extent of the appointment as Thibetan Trade Agents of Chinamen and not Thibetans. Under His Majesty's Government's present instructions, the negotiations can hardly be continued if this claim is not abandoned.

It should, we recommend, be explained to the Wai-wu Pu that the situation is as described in the Royal Commission issued to Sir L. Dane, namely, that a revision of the Trade Regulations is to take place under the first Article of the Convention of 1906, read with the third Article of the Convention of 1904, that Thibet has appointed the Shape as Delegate, who must be recognized and must act in that capacity; and that the provisions of the Convention of 1904 with Thibet have not undergone any change, but remain in full vigour, though the words "high authorities of Thibet," or "Thibet" can be made use of in future arrangements in place of "Government of Thibet," in order that Chinese susceptibilities may be met. Until Chang has received from the Wai-wu Pu instructions to this effect, we cannot expect any progress in the negotiations. Sir L. Dane is meanwhile carrying on oral discussion with Chang as to the remaining provisions of his draft, though the latter has been induced to consent to such discussion only after considerable difficulty.

[35081]

No. 95.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 3rd October, relative to the negotiations for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, October 23, 1907.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Sir L. Dane to Chang Ta-jén.

Simla, September 27, 1907.

I AM very glad to hear that you are better, and look forward to our next meeting. I have told Mr. Wilton to hand our rough Memorandum of points that we think might be discussed in the old Regulations to Mr. Leotenhy to-morrow as you request.

Memorandum.

It was anticipated that the proposals for the revision of the 1893 Trade Regulations would come from the Chinese Commissioner, as the suggestion for their revision was made by the Wai-wu Pu. The British Commissioner, therefore, does not propose now to put forward any detailed propositions, as these will probably emanate from Mr. Chang; but as revision of the 1893 Trade Regulations is under discussion, the following points are presented for consideration. The suggestions now being made will not, however, prejudice the right of the British Commissioner to advance further points which may suggest themselves from time to time during the negotiations, or which may be brought to notice by the various local authorities who have been consulted. The British Commissioner also reserves his right to reconsider the suggestions now made which are advanced as a basis of discussion in accordance with the expressed desire of Mr. Chang:—

1. The question of the levy of duties and imposts on trade between India and Thibet.

2. The question of communications passing between the British Agents at the various marts and the Thibetan officials and people.
3. The question of residences for British Trade Agents and subjects at the various marts.
4. The question of jurisdiction over British subjects and in cases arising between British subjects and persons of other nationalities in Thibet.
5. The question of arrangements for the transmission of posts.

(Signed) L. W. DANE, *British Commissioner.*

Simla, September 21, 1907.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Chinese Commissioner's Draft Regulations for Trade between India and Thibet.

(Translation.)

WHEREAS it was provided in Article I of the Convention between Great Britain and China, signed at Peking on the 27th April, 1906, that at all times such steps should be taken as might be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified in the Treaty between India and Thibet, and whereas it was stipulated in Article III of the Treaty that the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893 required amendment :

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and His Majesty the Emperor of China have for this purpose named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland

His Majesty the Emperor of China, Chang Ta-jên; and, under his directions, the Tsarong Shape of Thibet, Wangchuk Gyal-po;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective powers, and found them to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following amendments :—

1. With the exception of Yatung, where the market-place has already been assigned, market-places shall be delimited at Gyantse and Gartok after joint investigation and agreement between the British and Chinese Trade Agents, and boundary stones shall be laid down. Within these market areas, British, Indian, Chinese, and Thibetan subjects, and the subjects of all other nationalities shall be at liberty to come and go, to carry on business, to lease land, and to reside.

2. At the various trade marts mutual relations shall exist between the British Trade Agents and Frontier Officers, on the one hand, and the Chinese and Thibetan Trade Agents and local authorities, on the other hand. They shall all rank equally on the same footing, and treat one another with civility and courtesy. "Chao hui" (communication) shall be used in the conduct of official correspondence, and "pai hui" (ceremonial visits) in personal intercourse. Their relations shall all be framed according to the etiquette prevailing in Europe and the United States among officers of equal standing. Questions of supreme importance in which both countries are concerned shall be dealt with jointly by the officials of Great Britain and China.

3. The land within the market area shall be under the direction of the Thibetan authorities to apportion and fix the rent and taxes at a stated sum per mou,* on the basis of a ten years' lease, during which period no alteration shall be made either to augment or to diminish the amount of the payments so fixed. These amounts shall, for the present, be estimated in rupees to be paid annually. If, at the end of the ten years, the trade is flourishing and the market area prosperous, then the terms of lease shall be discussed and readjusted and the lease renewed.

British and Indian subjects desirous of leasing land on which to erect places of business shall send in their application through the British Trade Agent, who will notify his Chinese and Thibetan colleagues. Instructions will then be transmitted to the Municipal Office to pass the application for approval. Building shall only be allowed after the leasehold has been granted and a permit to build has been issued.

* 6 mou = 1 acre.

4. Within the market areas China undertakes to direct the Thibetan officials in the establishment of a Police Office for the protection of merchants and travellers passing to and fro; in the establishment of a Municipal Office for the control of the roads, streets, drains, leasing of land, construction of places of business, and sanitary arrangements; and in the establishment of a Judicial Court for the conduct of relations between the various traders and litigation which may arise in mixed cases.

5. Within the market areas, the Police Office shall be responsible for the protection of the lives and property of the British Trade Agent and British and Indian subjects.

In order to remove causes for suspicion and disturbance, Great Britain agrees not to send or station troops at the trade marts.

6.—(a.) Cases arising between British or Indian subjects, on the one side, and Chinese or Thibetan subjects, on the other, shall be heard and decided by the Judicial Court. At the same time, the British Trade Agent shall be invited to attend the Court to watch the case in the interests of justice. Each case shall be decided according to the laws of the country to which the defendant belongs.

(b.) A British or an Indian subject, before proceeding to the Judicial Court with his complaint against a Chinese or a Thibetan subject, shall first of all lay his grievance before the British Trade Agent, who shall do his utmost to arrange it amicably. If the Trade Agent cannot arrange the matter amicably, he shall notify the Judicial Court, which will thereupon summon plaintiff and defendant to the Court and hear the case. In like manner, if a Chinese or Thibetan subject have reason to complain of a British or an Indian subject before the Judicial Court, the Court shall first of all endeavour to settle the matter in a friendly manner. Should the Court not be able to reconcile the parties, the Court shall notify the British Trade Agent, and, having summoned plaintiff and defendant to the Judicial Court, will hear the case.

(c.) China having expressed a strong desire to reform the judicial system of the trade marts in Thibet, and to bring it into accord with that of Western nations, Great Britain agrees to relinquish her extra-territorial rights when she is satisfied that the state of the laws and the arrangement for their administration at the trade marts warrant her in so doing.

7. After the withdrawal of the British troops from Thibet, Great Britain agrees to hand over at cost price to China all the official rest-houses along the routes from the Indo-Thibetan frontier to Gyantse and Gartok. These rest-houses shall be reserved for the use of travelling British, Chinese, or Thibetan officials. Caretakers will be appointed to keep the rest-houses in good order, and travellers will remunerate them for services rendered.

8. British and Indian officials, traders, and merchants crossing the Indo-Thibetan frontier inwards to Thibet shall follow the shortest existing main routes. It shall not be permissible to proceed across Thibet from Gartok to Gyantse, nor shall it be permissible to proceed across Thibet either from Yatung or Gyantse to Gartok. Outside the three trade marts, subjects of any and all foreign Powers shall not be allowed to travel in Thibet without permission.

9. British or Indian criminals, on the one hand, and Thibetan criminals, on the other hand, taking refuge across the Indo-Thibetan frontier shall, on due requisition, be handed over. The offender shall not be harboured or concealed, but immediate measures shall be taken for his arrest and surrender to the official concerned to be dealt with. Any official authorized to use an official seal may address the requisition for extradition, and he may also address the requisition to the officer nearest the place across the frontier to which the criminal has escaped.

10. China may at any time station Trade Agents at Kalimpong and Darjeeling to watch the interests of the trade of Thibet with India. Chinese Trade Agents may from time to time be posted to other places, if necessary. These Chinese Trade Agents shall be entitled to privileges and immunities identical with those enjoyed by Consuls stationed in India.

Thibetan subjects trading, travelling, or residing in India shall be treated in the same liberal manner as the subjects of the most favoured nation.

11. In lawsuits involving cases of debt on account of loans, commercial failure, and bankruptcy, the officials of the two Powers shall grant a hearing and take necessary steps to enforce payment; but, if the debtor plead poverty and be without means, the officials of the two Powers shall not be held responsible for the said debts, nor shall any public or official property be distrained upon in order to satisfy these debts.

12. In cases where officials or merchants *en route* to and from India or Thibet are robbed of treasure or merchandize, public or private, they shall forthwith report to the Police Office and to the local authorities, who shall investigate the circumstances, arrest the robbers, and bring them to trial. Immediate measures shall be taken to recover and restore the stolen property. But if the robbers flee right away from those parts, the local authorities shall not be called upon to make good the losses.

13. At such time as China shall desire to collect import and export duties on Thibetan trade, the duties shall be those now or hereafter leviable under the Tariff of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China.

14. China being anxious to develop the trade of Thibet, which is now but budding, no import or export duties shall be levied. But under the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893 Indian tea shall not be imported into Thibet during the period for which other commodities are exempt.

15. Trade in the following articles :—

Salt, wines, opium, morphia, cigarettes, leaf tobacco, every kind of intoxicating or poison drugs, rifles, guns, cartridges, gunpowder, and munitions of war ;

shall be entirely prohibited, except under the special permit of the Amban at Lhasa. Violation of this Regulation shall render the offender liable to arrest, confiscation of the prohibited articles, and a heavy fine.

16. On withdrawal of the British troops all rights of local administration shall forthwith be vested in Thibetan officials, under the supervision and direction of the Chinese authorities. Neither the British Trade Agents, nor the Frontier Officers, nor any other officials hereafter appointed shall intervene therein ; nor shall they bring armed soldiers across the frontier.

17. Trade in merchandize and food, and the hiring of transport, shall be carried on by fair and mutual agreement at the prevailing rates of the day, without restriction or exaction.

The export of the following :—

Rice, wheat, and other grain, gold, silver, copper coins,
is prohibited.

18. The provisions of the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893 shall, subject to the terms of these present Regulations, remain in full force.

19. On the grounds of public safety, neither kerosene oil, gunpowder, nor any article of an inflammatory or dangerous nature shall be allowed to be stored at the marts. Any tanks or go-downs for kerosene oil shall be placed at a distance from the marts and from habitations.

No kerosene tanks or go-downs shall be erected by British or Indian merchants until they have subscribed to a satisfactory agreement, and until the local authorities have granted their application for a suitable suite.

20. The present Regulations shall remain in force for a term of ten years from the date of the exchange of ratifications. If no notice for discussion of amendments be given by either side within six months after the expiry of the term of ten years, then the present Regulations shall remain in force for another term of ten years, and similarly at the expiration of each successive term of ten years.

21. The English and Chinese texts of the present Regulations have been carefully compared and found to correspond, but in the event of there being any difference of meaning between them the English text shall be authoritative.

22. The present Regulations shall be ratified by the Sovereigns of both countries, and ratifications shall be exchanged at Peking within six months after the date of signature by the Plenipotentiaries of both Powers.

[35241]

No. 96.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 25.)

Sir,

India Office, October 23, 1907.

IN reply to your letter dated the 27th September last, inclosing a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Peking as to the right claimed by His Majesty's Government under the Convention of 1904 to hold direct communication with Thibet, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for the consideration of

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Secretary Sir E. Grey, a copy of telegrams which have passed with the Government of India, together with the demi-official letter therein referred to.

Mr. Morley is disposed to concur in the views expressed by that Government in their telegram regarding the three points raised by His Majesty's Minister, and would suggest, for the consideration of Sir E. Grey, that Sir J. Jordan should be instructed in that sense.

The Government of India will be requested, if desired, to repeat their telegram to Peking.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

October 9, 1907.

THIBET: Your telegram of the 2nd instant.

Please see the question put by His Majesty's Minister, Peking, in his despatch of the 7th August. We understand that, in the event of communications sent through local Thibetan authorities in regard to fulfilment of the Lhasa Convention being disregarded at Lhasa, His Majesty's Government claim the right to address the Thibetan Government direct (see Article II of Anglo-Russian Convention regarding Thibet, and Sir E. Grey's letter to Sir A. Nicolson of 5th December, 1906, No. 536). Communications which we should make to Thibetan authorities would naturally be on matters which might arise out of the Convention and Trade Regulations, which have an extended scope, as drafted by Chang and recently handed to Sir L. Dane. The point regarding our right to correspond with Lhasa has not been raised here by the Chinese Commissioner, and there is no necessity, we would submit, for us to put forward any proposal on the matter. Presumably, if any definition were to be framed by us, it would have to be on the lines of the instructions issued by Sir E. Grey to Sir A. Nicolson. With reference to the definition which should be adopted of the term "Thibetan Government," we take it to mean the Thibetan administrative authority centralized at Lhasa. For evidence as to recognition of Thibetan administrative autonomy by China, see demi-official letter from our Foreign Secretary to Secretary of Political Department, dated 23rd September; also *aide-mémoire*, by M. Isvolsky, of 6th August, which was forwarded in despatch from Sir A. Nicolson of 26th August, No. 426. Thibet is therein referred to as the vassal of another independent State. The phrase "Thibetan authorities" is used throughout as referring to administrative authority in Thibet in our draft of revised Trade Regulations. The same phrase is also used in the third Regulation of the draft put forward by the Chinese. After the matter has come up for discussion between Chang and Dane, we will inform you of the Chinese Commissioner's ideas on the subject.

We think that the insertion in the Trade Regulations of any definition of the term "Thibetan Government" would be inappropriate, if by any means it can be avoided. With regard to the Amban, the Chinese have not yet pressed here for any special recognition of his position, but if they do so it might be possible to arrange to send to the Amban the purport of communications sent to the Thibetan Government. As regards communications to the Chinese and Thibetan Commissioners, Dane follows this practice.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Government of India to India Office.

(Demi-official.)

Simla, September 23, 1907.

MR. CHANG and the Tsarong Shape, the Chinese and Thibetan Commissioners for the negotiation of the revised Thibet Trade Regulations, arrived at Simla on the 24th August, and we have exchanged visits.

After some delay, owing to excuses of Mr. Chang's ill-health, his Chinese Secretaries inquired from Mr. Wilton, on the 3rd September, whether the Viceroy would receive Mr. Chang, and, if so, in what manner, since the reception of Mr. Tang, the Chinese Commissioner, who came to India in 1905 in connection with the negotiation of the Adhesion Convention, had failed to meet with the approval of the Chinese.

Mr. Wilton inquired what alteration in the procedure formerly adopted was considered necessary, and Mr. Liu, one of Mr. Chang's Secretaries, after consulting Mr. Chang, said that the latter wished to be received on a footing of equality with the Viceroy. Mr. Wilton replied that this was impossible, though he was sure that the Indian Government were anxious to show him all possible honour, and suggested that Mr. Chang should address a letter to me on the subject. Mr. Chang then wrote to me and inquired whether his Excellency the Viceroy would receive him. He suggested that official formalities might be dispensed with at the interview to such extent as usage allowed.

In accordance with his Excellency's instructions, I answered that the Viceroy would be very happy to receive him on the 6th September, the earliest date which Mr. Chang considered suitable, and that, as he had suggested, the interview would be private and informal. I also stated that, if Mr. Chang so desired, the Viceroy would receive the Chinese members of his suite at the same time. Mr. Wilton also communicated the tenor of the reply to the Chinese Secretaries. This action was taken as ever since Mr. Chang's arrival he had taken special pains to prevent the Tsarong Shape, the Thibetan Delegate, from appearing otherwise than as a member of his suite, and his Excellency the Viceroy decided to endeavour to arrange a separate reception of the Shape. On the 6th instant Mr. Chang called on his Excellency and took the Shape with him. As the Thibetan Delegate had not asked for an interview, and as his Excellency had no Thibetan interpreter present, he received Mr. Chang first in the drawing-room, giving him a chair similar to his own. The Shape was taken to a waiting-room, where I remained with him. Mr. Chang mentioned that he had the Shape with him, and inquired whether his Excellency would see him. His Excellency replied that he would receive him afterwards. In the meantime Captain O'Connor was summoned, and, when Mr. Chang left, the Viceroy received the Shape in the same manner.

The Chinese were apparently agitated at the fact that the Shape was not received at the same time as Mr. Chang. Mr. Chang, however, has not since referred to the incident, and his attitude at the first formal meeting of the Commissioners was fairly reasonable. He is also apparently anxious to get away as soon as possible, and this may expedite matters. I hope, therefore, that we shall hear no more of it. Still the incident seems to indicate that Mr. Chang will probably try to prevent our dealing with the Thibetans except through him, and his conduct from the time of his arrival in Chumbi until his return to India does not inspire much hope that he will be anxious to deal on friendly and courteous terms with us. In these circumstances, it may be difficult to arrange Trade Regulations really acceptable to the Thibetans, and the situation of 1893 may be repeated. Every effort on our part will be exerted to conduct the negotiations in the most friendly manner, and we can only hope for a satisfactory result.

His Excellency thinks it better to report the attitude of Mr. Chang, for Mr. Morley's information, since it throws some light on the suggestion made by the Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan that communications from the Government of India to the Thibetan Government should be sent through the Imperial Chinese Resident at Lhasa and not direct.

We shall no doubt hear from you if any opinion is required on the points raised by Sir J. Jordan. It is not quite clear, however, why he wishes to define matters at this stage. We dealt with China about travels in Thibet and boundaries because she could best prevent travellers entering the country, and, as the suzerain and adjoining Power, she ought to know where her boundaries lie and where Thibet jurisdiction begins. China could hardly question Thibetan autonomy in internal matters and in matters affecting trans-border trade and crime, which are the questions with which we are most likely to be concerned, in view of the facts that the Amban gets orders issued through the Thibetan Government, that the Courts, except for Chinese subjects, are Thibetan, and that the whole Administration is Thibetan. The Treaties with Nepal, Bhutan, and Kashmir are also in point.

Besides, in conversation with Sir E. Satow in October 1904, Prince Ch'ing assented to the proposition that Thibet should be regarded as an autonomous State under the suzerainty of China, but disposing freely of its revenues and possessing an altogether independent Administration.

Again, a few weeks later, Prince Ch'ing assured Sir E. Satow in conversation that the Chinese Government had not contemplated declaring Thibet to be a province of China, and that such a measure would be difficult of accomplishment. Further, the presence of a Delegate appointed by the Thibetan Governing Body, Grand Council

and Assembly, after public session, is clear evidence of the existence of such a body and of its recognition by the Chinese. I hope, therefore, that we may not have to raise the point during these negotiations, or I may have to spend the rest of my natural life in trilingual discussions of a most tedious character.

(Signed) L. W. DANE.

P.S.—I am sorry to say that Mr. Chang is ill again, and was not able to attend the meeting fixed for to-day at his residence. He is to let me know when he is fit for business.

L. W. D.

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No. 97.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 111.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 25, 1907.

COMMUNICATIONS with Thibet under the Lhasa Convention.

Please see your despatch No. 379 of the 7th August.

His Majesty's Government concur in the views of the Government of India on the points raised relative to communications with Thibet. These views are contained in a telegram from the Viceroy of India dated the 9th October. He will be asked to repeat this telegram to you at Peking.

[35675]

No. 98.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 28.)

Sir,

India Office, October 25, 1907.

IN reply to your letter dated the 17th instant as to the definition of the boundaries of Thibet and the prohibition of scientific missions entering that country, I am directed to say that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in the reply which Secretary Sir E. Grey proposes to make to His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg and His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

I am, &c.

(Signed) COLIN CAMPBELL.

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No. 99.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 184.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, October 31, 1907.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 111 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inform you that a telegram dated the 22nd instant has been repeated to me by the Government of India, but not their telegram of the 9th instant, and to request your instructions as to whether the suggestions contained in the latter telegram are to be acted on.

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No. 100.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 29th instant, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, October 31, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, October 29, 1907.

THE views explained in your telegram dated the 9th instant as to Thibet are approved by His Majesty's Government. The fact of this approval was telegraphed to Sir J. Jordan on the 25th instant. Your telegram dated the 9th instant should be repeated to him.

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No. 101.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 372.)

Foreign Office, November 1, 1907.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 511 of the 9th ultimo, relative to the questions of the definition of the boundaries of Thibet and of the prohibition of scientific missions entering that country.

I have considered the matter, in conjunction with His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and am of opinion that nothing would be gained by pursuing either of these questions further with the Chinese Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

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No. 102.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 440.)

Foreign Office, November 1, 1907.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 177 of the 13th ultimo, relative to the questions of the definition of the boundaries of Thibet and of the prohibition of scientific missions entering that country.

I have considered the matter, in conjunction with His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and am of opinion that nothing would be gained by pursuing either of these questions further with the Chinese Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[36232]

No. 103.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 2.)

Sir,

India Office, November 1, 1907.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Government of India reporting the proceedings at the first meeting of the Commissioners appointed to negotiate the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893. Copies of the draft proposed by the Chinese Commissioner, and of a Memorandum by the British Commissioner, which have been received from India, are also inclosed.

The language held by Mr. Chang Tachen in respect of the preamble, as well as the general wording of the Chinese draft, justifies, in Mr. Morley's opinion, the view of the Government of India that sovereignty as well as suzerainty over Thibet, and full administrative authority in Thibet, are being claimed by China.

The admission of such a claim would involve the abandonment by His Majesty's Government of the principle underlying the Lhasa Convention, which was confirmed by the Chinese Government in the Peking Convention. It is also open to the practical objection that the Chinese Government may hereafter be unable, as they admitted they were in the negotiations preceding the Lhasa Mission, to enforce the observance of the engagements they may enter into on behalf of Thibet; while, on the other hand, the Thibetans, under Regulations on the lines of the Chinese draft, would be in a position to plead that the responsibility lay not with them but with China. The

ascendency which China now appears to exercise at Lhasa may be due only to the absence of a Dalai Lama.

Should the Chinese Government ultimately refuse to accept a form of the Regulations so framed in accordance with the Lhasa Convention as to lay the responsibility for their observance primarily on Thibet, the course to be taken will require serious consideration. For the present, Mr. Morley would propose that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be instructed to address a communication to the Wai-wu Pu in the sense suggested by the Government of India.

I am to add that the Government of India have been requested to repeat their telegram to Peking.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[Inclosures already printed : see India Office letter, October 23, 1907.]

[36863]

No. 104.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 17th October, relative to the negotiations for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, November 7, 1907.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Note of the Conversations between Mr. Wilton and Mr. Liu, Secretary to Mr. Chang, in September and October, 1907.

I GIVE below, under their respective headings, some topics of conversation between Mr. Liu and myself during three visits he paid me on the 23rd and 28th September and the 1st October. Mr. Liu was attached to the Amban's staff at Lhasa about 1898-1900, and has since been serving in the Wai-wu Pu at Peking until June last, when he was sent to join Chang Ta-jên's staff in India. His late father was Chinese Minister in London in 1888.

1. Chinese position in Thibet.

Mr. Liu declared that Thibet had belonged to China for centuries, and was as much a part of the Chinese Empire as India of the British Empire. A Thibetan was a Chinese subject, he said, in the sense that a native of India was a British subject. There was no word in the Thibetan language for Thibetan Government.

I pointed out to Mr. Liu that in the ninth century Thibet had been more than a menace to China, and that the demand of the Thibetan King that a Chinese Princess should be given him in marriage had been reluctantly conceded. History seemed to me to show that China had considered it necessary to utilize the spiritual influence of the Dalai Lama to relax the Mongol pressure on China. It was true that in the eighteenth century a Chinese army had occupied Lhasa, but it was also true that British troops had entered Lhasa in 1904. His remarks seemed to me inconsistent with the statement of the Tsung-li Yamên during the Yatung negotiations to the effect that Thibet was not a Chinese province, and that its status was more independent than either Mongolia or Manchuria. Nor was Thibet a Chinese province to-day. I thought, therefore, that Mr. Liu would agree that our own point of view was correct, viz., that China was the Suzerain and not the Sovereign of Thibet. I added that I had been led to believe that the Thibetan words "Deba Shung" meant "Thibetan Government," and also that the Chinese "Shang shang" meant "Civil Government" in Thibet, as the "Shang shang" had the control of Thibetan revenues and the general internal administration.

2. Chinese policy towards Thibet.

Mr. Liu told me that recently a change had come over Chinese policy towards Thibet. Hitherto China had been content to seal up Thibet, but now it had become

clear that it was necessary to try and build up a bulwark for Szechuan. In reply to my assurance that the British Government only wanted trade facilities in Thibet, and that Great Britain, at any rate, had no more idea of invading China through Thibet than China had of invading India through Thibet, Mr. Liu laughed and said that preposterous as the latter half of this idea might seem, there were people in China who nursed it. From this point we touched upon the Russo-Chinese draft Treaty, under which the military power of Thibet was to be created and developed. Mr. Liu appeared to be quite familiar with the general tenour of this document, and, indeed, when I named Yung Lu as one principal he at once named Cassini as the other. Mr. Liu also confirmed my suggestion that the Dalai Lama had been intriguing with Russian subjects, and added that the perverted policy of the Dalai Lama was understood at Peking.

3. The return of the Dalai Lama to Lhasa.

Mr. Liu said that the Dalai Lama would return to Lhasa, although the actual date had not yet been decided. He would return, however, as a private lama and not be allowed to exercise his functions as Dalai Lama, which would be transferred probably to the Tashi Lama.

4. War indemnity to be paid by Thibet.

I remarked to Mr. Liu that the misconduct of the Dalai Lama had proved expensive for India, whereupon he replied that Thibet had to pay an indemnity. I pointed out that the cost to India had been nearly a million sterling, for which the Treaty provided 25 lakhs of rupees, or about 20 per cent. of the actual outlay; and that China was paying this amount and not Thibet. Mr. Liu answered that China had paid two instalments of the indemnity, but that Thibet would have to repay these and would also have to find the money for the third instalment.

5. Anglo-Russian Agreement, section 4. " . . . if occupation is for any reason not terminated at contemplated date . . . " Mr. Liu drew my attention to the above passage, and asked if there was any hidden or ulterior motive in it, and whether it was contemplated to prolong the British occupation.

I drew Mr. Liu's attention to Article VII of the Lhasa Treaty and the declaration thereto, and supposed that the passage to which he referred emphasized the obligations of both parties to the Treaty.

6. Treatment of Thibetan officials in India.

Mr. Liu handed me Mr. Chang's draft Trade Regulations on the 28th September. On my remarking that there was no Thibetan version, he said that the draft had been carefully explained to the Tsarong Shape and that Chang Ta-jên did not propose to send a Thibetan translation.

I pointed out the inconvenience which would arise during discussion, as the Shape was the Delegate of Thibet. Mr. Liu remarked that it seemed strange that we should take such notice of the Thibetan Delegate, in view of the fact that in 1890 the Shape Shata, who accompanied the Amban to Darjeeling, had been ignored and grossly insulted. He had been reading Colonel Waddell's Book on the Thibet Mission, in which it was related how the Shape Shata had been beaten, ducked, and ignominiously dragged off to the police station at Darjeeling.

I told Mr. Liu that I was glad of an opportunity to refute this astounding columny. The Shape Shata, who was not a Shape at that time, had never been assaulted, but a drunken Thibetan officer, who had insulted a lady, had been forcibly conveyed to the police station by some bystanders. The Shape Shata himself was disgusted with this man, who, from his behaviour on that and on previous occasions, appeared to have been a coarse and dissipated ruffian, and the latter was packed off to Thibet within a few days of the incident.

Note.—Mr. Landon, "Times" correspondent, actually lectured before the Society of Arts, taking as his text our folly in having exasperated the Thibetans by assaulting one of their highest officers, viz., Shape Shata.

7. Visit of Kang-yu-Wei to India.

Mr. Liu, who left Peking in June this year, told me that it had been a topic of conversation there that Kang-yu-Wei, the Chinese political refugee, had been cordially welcomed in India, that his daughter and the Viceroy's daughter had been bosom friends, and that Kang-yu-Wei had had the run of Government House at Calcutta. Mr. Liu's reference was to Kang-yu-Wei's visit to India about 1902.

I told Mr. Liu that Kang-yu-Wei had been treated in India just like any other

visiter who paid his own hotel bills, railway fares, and behaved properly. The Viceroy's eldest daughter was then about 8 years old (Kang-yu-Wei's daughter being about 17), and, so far as I knew, had never seen or heard of either Kang-yu-Wei or his daughter. The Viceroy himself, I believed, had also never seen Kang-yu-Wei, who, so far from having had the run of Government House in Calcutta, had never even been a guest there.

Note.—The significance of this story about Kang-yu-Wei lies perhaps rather in past than in present history. Kang-yu-Wei, a Chinese official of very high rank, who had the ear of the Chinese Emperor in 1898, was the principal in a conspiracy to deprive the Empress-Dowager of her power. The conspiracy failed, owing to the treachery of Yuan-shih-Kai (now President of the Wai-wu Pu) and the energy and determination of the Empress-Dowager. Kang-yu-Wei fled in the disguise of a common coolie, and the Empress-Dowager offered the highest rewards for his head. A plan was concerted to take him off a British steamer at Shanghai, but he was subsequently landed at Hong Kong. Strenuous efforts are reported to have been made to kidnap or assassinate him at this time. It seems clear that the Empress-Dowager, who was frantically incensed against Kang-yu-Wei, would believe a story of the above description, which it appears to me not unlikely that Tang Shao-yi, on his return from India, invented to aggravate the Empress-Dowager against India, and so divert attention from his own lack of success. Yuan Shih Kai, referred to above, was Tang's patron. I daresay the story is believed in official circles at Peking, as the highest officials take their cue from the Empress-Dowager.

8. Mr. Liu told me that he had heard alarming accounts of the unrest in India, and that, on the eve of departure from Peking, he had called on Sir John Jordan, who had given him a letter of introduction to the Foreign Department in case he should wish to apply for a passport and special measures of protection while in India. Mr. Liu admitted that he had not seen the slightest signs of disturbance or unrest in India.

9. Mr. Liu and I agreed that our conversation should be without prejudice to the views of either Sir Louis Dane or Chang Ta-jên, and that our own exchange of opinions should not be held to bind them to any particular line of action.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

October 7, 1907.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Government of India to Chang Ta-jên.

Simla, October 2, 1907.

I HAVE received your note in Chinese embodying proposals for the revision of the Regulations of 1893, and it will receive my early and most careful consideration.

As the proposals directly affect the arrangements for trade at present existing in Thibet, I should be very glad to have a Thibetan translation of the note signed by the Tsarong Shape so that I may be assured that the Thibetan Representative understands and concurs in the proposals put forward before we discuss them in detail.

I shall accordingly be much obliged if you will kindly have a copy of the note made in Thibetan and sent to me.

I am also writing to the Shape on the subject.

Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

Government of India to the Tsarong Shape.

Simla, October 2, 1907.

I HAVE received from Mr. Chang a note in Chinese embodying proposals for the revision of the Trade Regulations of 1893.

As the proposals directly affect the arrangements for trade at present existing in Thibet, it appears to be most desirable that I should receive a Thibetan translation of the note signed by yourself so that I may be assured that you concur in the proposals put forward before we discuss them in detail.

I shall therefore be obliged if you will kindly sign and forward to me a Thibetan copy of the note.

Inclosure 4 in No. 104.

The Tsarong Shape to Sir L. Dane.

(Translation.)

[Received October 4, 1907.]

I HAVE received your letter in which you say that the draft which you have received from Mr. Chang regarding the Trade Regulations of the year 1893 should be translated into Thibetan and a signed copy sent to you. As this is only a draft, I do not wish to sign it. The Chinese and Thibetans are of one opinion, and there is no difference between them. As some disparity might occur in translating the Chinese into Thibetan, and delay and confusion might follow, I would request you to translate the Chinese into English without mistakes. If you are doubtful (about any point) we could at once discuss it.

From the Tsarong Shape. Dated the 27th of the 8th month (4th October).

Inclosure 5 in No. 104.

The Tsarong Shape to Captain O'Connor.

(Translation.)

[Received October 6, 1907.]

I RECEIVED a letter the other day from the Foreign Secretary* regarding the terms to be used in correspondence passing between English and Thibetan officials. I do not wish to discuss this matter at present, but shall be prepared to do so later on. Kindly convey this message to the Foreign Secretary.

Inclosure 6 in No. 104.

Chang Ta-jên to Sir L. Dane.

October 7, 1907.

YOUR letter of the 2nd October has been received by me; and, for the present, I forward you herewith only an English translation of my draft.

It would be nothing indeed to send you also a Thibetan translation of the same, and, in fact, I had intended to do so; but, as there are so many words and expressions in the draft of which it would be exceedingly difficult for the Thibetan officers to make proper and satisfactory renderings, I decided after all to send the draft without one for the only reason of saving correspondence and time. Take, for instance, the Thibetan version of the Shape's Commission.

I mean, however, to get up a Thibetan translation as quickly as possible, and send it later on, or until after we have agreed upon the various points. I trust you will have no objection to this.

In all my proposals which are all only reasonable, and so, I trust, are all very agreeable and acceptable to you, the Tsarong Shape, I may assure you, do perfectly understand and sincerely concur; and I do not doubt that after this no conception whatever will arise in any and all of the points embodied therein.

Trusting that what I have said will satisfy you and having also instructed the Shape to write and assure you himself, &c.

Inclosure 7 in No. 104.

Draft Convention for the Regulation of the Trade between India and Thibet.

WHEREAS it was provided in Article I of the Indo-Thibetan Convention, concluded between Great Britain and China on the 27th April, 1906, that is, the 4th day of the 4th moon of the 32nd year of Kwang Hsü, that such steps should at all times be taken as might be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein;

And whereas it was stipulated in Article III of the Annex of the same Convention that the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1893 required alteration and amendment;

* Literally "great official."

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and His Majesty the Emperor of the Chinese Empire have for this purpose named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland,

And His Majesty the Emperor of the Chinese Empire, His Majesty's Special Commissioner, Chang-Yin-Tang, and, under his directions, the Tsarong Shape, Wang-Chuk Gyal-po;

Who, having compared their respective full powers which are found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon the following amendments :—

1. With the exception of Yatung, at which the market-place has already been assigned, limits of market-places should also be marked out at Gyantse and Gartok. These limits shall be defined and verified conjointly by the British and Chinese Trade Agents, and limit stones shall be erected thereat. Within the limits of these market-places British, Chinese, Indian and Thibetan subjects and subjects of all the other nations shall be at liberty to proceed to and fro, to carry on trade, to lease land, and to take up their residence.

2. The British Trade Agents and frontier officers shall hold intercourse and correspondence with the Chinese and Thibetan Trade Agents and the local authorities at the various marts, on a footing of perfect equality, and on terms of respect and friendly treatment. The form of despatches between them shall be that of "Chao-Hui" communication, and the manner of meeting or interview shall be that of "Pai-Hui," an official call, to be conducted, in all these cases, according to the ceremonial and etiquette as are observed among officers of equal rank in Europe and America.

In case of questions of a momentous nature in which both countries are concerned, it shall be conducted by the British and Chinese officers in consultation.

3. A regular term of land tax and rent shall be fixed by the Thibetan authorities on all land within the limits of the market-places, at the rate, for the present, of rupees per "mou" per annum. The term of lease shall be ten years, within which period no attempt is permitted either to increase or to diminish the rent originally fixed. On the expiry of the lease, however, and if the marts, with the development of the trade, have a prosperous aspect, the term of lease may, at that time, be again discussed and arranged, and then the lease may be continued.

British and Indian subjects desiring to lease land for the building of places of business shall make application, through the British Trade Agent, to the Chinese and Thibetan Trade Agents, who, on being notified, will, in turn, communicate the application to the Municipal Office to be considered and granted. No building is to be commenced before a permit to lease and to build has been issued.

4. The Chinese Government undertakes to direct the Thibetan officers in establishing, within these marts, a police office, to afford protection to merchants and travellers proceeding to and fro; in establishing a Municipal Office, to supervise over the roads, streets, reservoirs, drains, leasing, and building, and sanitary works; in establishing a Judicial Court, to conduct the law suits in mixed cases arising within these marts.

5. It being the duty of the police office and the local authorities to afford protection to the lives and property of the British and Indian officers or merchants, the British Government, to remove all cause for suspicion and disturbance, engages to send and station no troops at the marts.

6. *Section 1.*—A Chinese or a Thibetan subject, and a British or an Indian subject, having reason to complain of each other, shall be tried by the Judicial Court, and at the same time the British Trade Agent will be asked to attend and watch the proceedings in the interests of justice. After judgment has been given, the law administered will be the law of the nationality of the defendant.

Section 2.—A British or an Indian subject, having reason to complain of a Chinese or a Thibetan subject, before the Judicial Court, must first proceed to the British Trade Agent and state his grievance. The British Trade Agent will do his utmost to arrange it amicably; but if this cannot be done, he will communicate particulars to the Judicial Court, which will summon both the plaintiff and defendant to the Court to be tried.

In like manner, if a Chinese or a Thibetan subject have reason to complain of a British or an Indian subject, before the Judicial Court, it will do well to arrange it amicably. Should this be impossible, it will communicate particulars to the British Trade Agent, and both the plaintiff and defendant shall be summoned before the Court and the case heard.

Section 3.—The Chinese Government, having a strong desire to reform the judicial system of Thibet at the marts, and to bring it into accord with that of western nations, Great Britain will be prepared to relinquish her extra-territorial rights, when she is satisfied that the state of the Thibetan laws at the marts and the arrangement of their administration warrant her in so doing.

7. After the withdrawal of the British troops, all the bungalows built by the British Government, totally in number, along the routes leading from the Thibetan frontier to Gyantse and Gartok, shall be taken over at the original costs by the Chinese Government. These will be preserved as rest-houses for the officers—British, Chinese, or Thibetan—who may proceed to and fro on public affairs. Keepers will be sent to keep these houses neat and clean, and they may be rewarded for their services with a small fee.

8. British or Indian goods, official, and traders, &c., must follow the shortest main routes existing from the Thibetan frontier inwards. They shall not proceed by way of Gartok to all parts of the interior of Thibet, thence to Gyantse and Yatung, nor shall they enter into the interior of Thibet by taking another route from Yatung and Gyantse. No foreigners are to proceed, without permission, to any part in the interior of Thibet other than the three marts, for the purpose of travel.

9. If British or Indian criminals shall take refuge within the Thibetan frontier, or if Thibetan offenders take refuge within the frontier of British India, they shall, on due requisition by the officer of one country to that of the other, be at once arrested and delivered up, without attempting to screen or conceal them.

Any officer who has the right of using an official seal, may address a requisition, and he may also address his requisition to the frontier officer nearest to the place wherein a criminal takes refuge.

10. China may at any time appoint Trade Agents to reside at Kalimpong, Darjeeling, &c., to look after the Thibetan trade with India; and may also send at any time such officers to reside at any places, where necessary.

These Trade Agents shall be entitled to the same attributes, privileges, and immunities as are enjoyed by the Consular officers of the various nations residing in India.

Thibetans proceeding to British India for the purpose of trade, or travel, or residence, shall receive the same friendly treatment as is accorded to the subjects or citizens of the nation most favoured in that respect.

11. Should any merchant seek redress in law, on account of credit, loans, or debts either in money or in goods, or of bankruptcy, or of transfer, or closing of business, the officers of both countries on due examination being made, shall take proper steps to compel satisfaction; but if the debtor is really in a state of insolvency, neither officer will hold himself responsible for such debts. No public or Government property shall be detained as indemnity for the losses.

12. Should any officials or merchants, while on their way to or from India and Thibet, be plundered of their goods and chattels, or treasure, public or private, they must at once make a clear representation at the police office and the local authorities, who shall investigate into the case, arrest the robbers, and try them; and shall take prompt measures to recover the property plundered, to be returned to the owners; but if the robbers fly the country, the local authorities will not hold themselves responsible for such losses.

13. The Customs Tariff now existing in China, or that which may be hereafter fixed, shall be applicable, whenever China wishes to impose a duty on the Thibet trade, to its imports and exports.

14. Being anxious to develop the Thibet trade which is now only in its infancy, China engages that she will not, for the present, impose any duty on its imports and exports.

Subject to the Trade Regulations of 1893, Indian tea shall not be imported into Thibet during the period in which all other commodities imported are duty-free.

15. The following forbidden articles: salt; liquors; opium; morphia; cigarettes; tobacco-leaves; all sorts of intoxicating and poison drugs; rifles; guns; gunpowder; bullets; and arms, &c.; shall only be carried into Thibet with the special permission of the Imperial Chinese Resident at Lhassa, under penalty of the arrest of the offender, the confiscation of the articles, and a heavy fine besides.

16. Immediately after the withdrawal of the British troops, all rights of local administration shall be vested in the Thibetan officials, under the supervision and direction of the Chinese officials.

No British Trade Agents, frontier officers, or any other officers that may be here-

after appointed, shall interfere with the local judicial proceedings, nor shall they take any armed soldiers across the frontier.

17. All business of selling and purchasing commodities or grains, or of hiring transport, must be conducted by mutual agreement, at the rates of the time, equitably, and without restrictions or exaction.

The export of rice, wheat, and other grains, coins, gold, silver, or copper is prohibited.

18. The Regulations of the 19th year (1893) of Kwang Hsü shall remain in force, in so far as they are not inconsistent with the Regulations of the present Convention.

19. For public safety, no kerosene oil, gunpowder, or any other combustible or dangerous articles are permitted to be kept within the marts. Tanks or stores for kerosene oil, if any, must be stored far away from the marts and the inhabited places.

British or Indian merchants, wishing to build tanks or stores for kerosene oil, may not do so, until they have made application to the Thibetan authorities for a suitable site, who will issue to them a permit to lease land; and until a contract has been satisfactorily entered into.

20. The Regulations fixed by the present Convention shall be in force for a period of ten years reckoned from the date of exchange of the ratifications; but if no demand for revision be made on either side within six months after the end of the first ten years, then the Regulations shall remain in force for another ten years, from the end of the first ten years; and so it shall be at the end of each successive ten years.

21. The English and Chinese texts of the present Regulations have been carefully compared, but in case of any divergence in the interpretation between the texts, the sense as expressed in the English text shall be held to be the correct sense.

22. The ratifications of the present Regulations, under the hand of His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland, and of His Majesty the Emperor of the Chinese Empire, respectively, shall be exchanged at Peking within six months from the present date.

In testimony whereof, the Chinese Plenipotentiary and, under his direction, the Thibetan Shape, Wang-Chuk, Gyal-po, have signed and sealed the present Regulations.

(Signed) CHANG YIN TANG.

Inclosure 8 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to the Tsarong Shape.

Simla, October 7, 1907.

I HAVE to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 4th October, in which you state that you concur in the Chinese note on the subject of the Trade Regulations, and that you do not wish to send a signed note in Thibetan, as it would only be a draft. I merely suggested that the copy should be signed in order that we might be sure of its authenticity as was done by Chang Ta-jên and myself. You will no doubt remember that it was agreed at the meeting that the notes should be exchanged in English, Chinese, and Thibetan, and copies of our note have been furnished in Chinese to Chang Ta-jên, and in Thibetan to yourself. It is also clear that much time must be wasted in discussion if you have not a Thibetan version of the document under examination, and that a Thibetan translation of Thibet Regulations is essential.

Chang Ta-jên has informed me to-day that a Thibetan translation of his draft will be sent to me, and I hope, therefore, to receive this version in due course.

Inclosure 9 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to Chang Ta-jên.

Simla, October 7, 1907.

I HAVE duly received your letter and inclosure of the 7th October and thank you for your courteous promise to arrange that a Thibetan translation of your Chinese note should be sent to me. My request for this translation was inspired by the desire to facilitate our joint negotiations.

I hope, now that your health has improved, it may be convenient to you to appoint an early date for our next meeting.

Inclosure 10 in No. 104.

The Tsarong Kalon to Sir L. Dane.

October 10, 1907.

I HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter, in English and in Thibetan, dated the 7th October.

In reply, I beg to say that all important affairs concerning the foreign relations of Thibet have been conducted by the Chinese Government; and, on examining all the Treaties and Regulations between England and China for India and Thibet, I have found that there is always this provision: "The English and Chinese texts have been carefully compared. If any difference arises, the English text shall be held to be correct." Then why should a Thibetan text have anything to do with this our Convention at all?

Thibet is to China just as India is to England; and, therefore, in this Convention, it would be quite unnecessary for China to send a Thibetan text as for England to send an Indian text.

If you may have some doubt as to my perfect understanding and concurrence in all the proposals put forward in the Chinese text, so that you should like to have a Thibetan text from me to authenticate this our Convention, please let me assure you that all the proposals were drawn up conjointly by his Excellency the Chang and myself, and that non-concurrence and misconceptions can never arise this time in Lhasa and myself, the Thibetan Representative.

You were good enough to inform me that his Excellency Chang would send you a Thibetan translation of our draft; and I have ascertained myself that his Excellency Chang's opinion is not in conflict with that of my own. A Thibetan text will be sent to you later on, only for reference, and he does not think it so essential in this our negotiations as you were pleased to think it was.

I fail to see the reason for your idea that much time must be wasted in discussion if I have not a Thibetan version of the document under examination, and that a Thibetan translation of Thibet Trade Regulation is essential; for, so far as I can see, the cause has not the least connection whatever with the effect.

Inclosure 11 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to the Tsarong Shape.

Simla, October 12, 1907.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 10th October. I am obliged for your assurance that a Thibetan translation of the Chinese note on the subject of the Trade Regulations will be sent to me.

I will reserve my remarks upon the other matters mentioned in your letter until our next meeting, which will, I trust, take place soon.

Inclosure 12 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to Chang Ta-jén.

Simla, October 12, 1907.

I FORWARD herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Tsarong Shape, in reply to one which I have received from him, dated the 10th October.

Some of the points to which he has referred in his letter can, I think, be best treated by oral discussion at any rate in the first instance, so that we may ascertain how far we are in agreement and where we must differ. I therefore desire to reserve my remarks on these questions until we discuss the proposals put forward for the amendment of the Trade Regulations of 1893 at the meeting which was to take place after our respective Memoranda on this subject had been exchanged. I await a communication from you appointing the date of this meeting, at your residence, as arranged, and I trust that you will kindly fix an early date. Any day, except the 15th October, will suit me, and, if this meets your convenience, I am prepared to continue the oral discus-

sion daily until we have arrived, as I sincerely trust we shall, at a harmonious decision, or at any rate have defined the questions about which it will be necessary to exchange more formal notes.

Inclosure 13 in No. 104.

Imperial Commission telegraphed to Mr. Chang. (Handed by Mr. Chang to Sir L. Dane at a Meeting on August 12, 1907.)

We, Emperor of China, &c., to Chang Yin Tang, our Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to Thibet:

WHEREAS, under Article III of the Treaty (Lhasa Convention of 1904) appended to the Indo-Thibetan Convention between China and Great Britain (Peking Convention of 1906), it was stipulated that further considerations and modifications are required in the Thibetan Convention Treaty (Trade Regulations) which was signed in the nineteenth year of Kwang Hsü (1893), on behalf of the Chinese and British Governments;

And whereas Great Britain now has specially appointed a High Commissioner to meet and discuss with the Special Commissioner accredited by China, with a view to amending and drawing up of Regulations for the opening (to trade) of the marts:

Now you, Chang Yin Tang, being loyal, faithful, upright, and wise, we do hereby specially name and appoint you our High Commissioner, with full and plenary powers. You shall proceed, with Shape Wongchu-Chiehpu, who shall be under your direction, to Simla, to confer with the British Special Commissioner.

Do enter into the negotiations with attention and care, so that you shall not disappoint us in the trust we are reposing in you.

A Special Edict.

Inclosure 14 in No. 104.

Translation of the Thibetan copy of the Tsarong Shape's Credentials, handed by the Shape to Sir L. Dane on September 12, 1907, and signed by the Shape in pencil.

Kandyan Chiba, Acting Lama for the Dalai Lama, in the matter of issuing a Sealed Certificate:

WHEREAS a despatch has been received from Chang Ta-jên, stating that he received of the Board of Foreign Affairs the following telegram:—

"In his Memorandum the British Ambassador states that the British Government requested that Chang Ta-jên should again be delegated to proceed to India, taking with him a Thibetan officer who has powers to negotiate and sign, and the British Government will herself appoint specially a delegate, whose official rank is not inferior to that of Chang Ta-jên, to meet and discuss with him, &c.

"We hope that you will immediately select and name a Thibetan officer, making ready to proceed."

He, therefore, requested me therein to select and depute an intelligent and experienced Thibetan officer, and to give him full powers to negotiate and sign, in order that he may proceed to Simla with him to confer with the High Commissioner specially appointed by the Indian Government.

Now, after a public discussion, the Shape Wongchu-Chiehpu was selected and appointed for that purpose, and was invested with full and plenary powers to negotiate and sign. The said Shape is, I have no doubt, competent to proceed to Simla with Chang Ta-jên to meet and discuss; but, while he should place himself under the direction of Chang Ta-jên, he shall also report me at all times the conditions of the conferences for my decision.

Having sent an official reply to their Excellencies the Special Commissioner Chang Ta-jên and the Amban Lian Ta-jên, I do herewith issue this Sealed Certificate to the said Shape, and he is to obey this instruction without infringement.

Issued on the 22nd day of the 5th moon of the 33rd year of Kwang Hsü.

Inclosure 15 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to Chang Ta-jén.

Simla, September 13, 1907.

FROM the conversation at our interview yesterday, I understand that you and the Tsarong Shape agree to return the Commission of the Thibetan Delegate, sealed with the seal of the Dalai Lama by the Ti-Rimpoche, Acting Lama for the Dalai Lama, to the Ti-Rimpoche at Lhassa, with the request that the sentence in the Commission, "he shall also report to me at all times the condition of the conferences for my decision" (*vide* your English translation), may be erased, and that the Commission, thus altered, may be returned to the Thibetan delegate at Simla.

I desire also to confirm my statement, made at the same interview, that there is no objection on my part to continuing our discussions on the Thibet Trade Regulations, pending the return of the Commission to the Thibetan delegates.

Awaiting the favour of your reply in confirmation of the above.

Inclosure 16 in No. 104.

Chang Ta-jén to Sir L. Dane.

September 14, 1907.

IN reply, I have to inform you that I, with the Tsarong Shape, do agree to return the Commission of the Thibetan delegate, sealed with the seal of the Dalai Lama by the Ti-Rimpoche, Acting Lama for the Dalai Lama, to the Ti-Rimpoche at Lhassa, with the request that the sentence in the Commission, "he shall also report to me at all times the conditions of the conferences for my decision," may be erased, and that the Commission, thus altered, may be returned to the Thibetan delegate at Simla; and I and the Tsarong Shape are sending it off to-day.

With reference to the second question, my wish and that of the Tsarong Shape are not in the least contrary to your own; but I and the Shape certainly wish that your Commission by the British Government—at least, that transmitted by telegraph—should be shown to us before our next conference.

Inclosure 17 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to Chang Ta-jén.

Simla, September 17, 1907.

I AM in receipt of your letter of the 14th September, and beg to thank you and the Tsarong Shape for so promptly meeting my wishes with regard to the amendment which I proposed in the Shape's credentials.

With regard to my Commission from His Majesty the King-Emperor, which you and the Shape desire to see, I trust to be able to show it to you on Monday, the 30th instant, by which time it should have arrived; and I hope that you also will be able to let me see your own Commission, in original, on the same date.

I am inclosing herewith, for your information, an English translation of the Thibetan copy of the credentials which were handed to me by the Tsarong Shape at our meeting on the 12th instant. You will observe that our translation differs in certain particulars from that with which you so kindly favoured us.

I notice also that some of the Thibetan terms, purporting to be translations of expressions used in a telegram from the Board of Foreign Affairs at Peking, and having reference to the British Government and its officials, are apparently not of a suitable character. For instance, the word used to describe the British Minister at Peking is an expression implying "a messenger," and the word signifying the British and Indian "Governments" is also unsuitable. These expressions are no doubt due to the ignorance of the Thibetans, who have fallen into such errors in translating the Chinese text of the telegram referred to above into their own language; but they are, nevertheless, very much out of place in a document of this description.

I would suggest to you, therefore, that whilst arranging for the omission of the

debatable sentence in the Shape's credentials, as agreed upon by us at our last meeting, you should endeavour to secure at the same time that the necessary correction might be made in the text.

Inclosure 18 in No. 104.

Translation of the Thibetan copy of the Credentials handed by the Tsarong Shape to Sir L. Dane on September 12, 1907.

Certificate issued by the Ga-den Ti-Rimpoche, acting for the Dalai Lama.

A DESPATCH was recently received from Chang, the Great Minister, stating that he had received the following telegram from the Board of Foreign Affairs:—

"The English Delegate* has submitted a petition† to say that in an extract (from a letter) the English Office‡ has said that Chang, the Great Minister, having again been appointed,§ and with him a Thibetan official, with full powers and authorized to sign whom he is to bring with him to India, the English office will appoint an official of a rank not inferior to that of Chang, the Great Minister. You must immediately select and appoint a Thibetan official ready to start."

He (*i.e.*, Mr. Chang) has instructed us that it will be well to select and appoint an intelligent and experienced Thibetan officer and to give him full powers to negotiate and to sign together with him (*i.e.*, Mr. Chang); and to empower him to proceed to Simla with Chang, the Great Minister, to negotiate with the official appointed by the India Office.

Accordingly the Council and Assembly, having consulted together, have selected a Shape, Wang-Chuk Gyal-po, and have given him full powers to negotiate and to sign simultaneously (with Mr. Chang). He should accompany Chang, the Great Minister, to Simla, and should negotiate, and he must carry out Chang, the Great Minister's, instructions. On the one hand, he is to negotiate thus, and from time to time when we receive his communications, we will carefully consider them, and take action accordingly.

Besides the separate answer which has been sent by a despatch to Chang, the Great Minister, requesting him to investigate matters carefully,|| we have issued this certificate, and you, Shape, are to obey it without infringement.

Written on the 23rd day of the 3rd month of the 33rd year of the reign of the Emperor Kuang-shu.

Inclosure 19 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to the Tsarong Shape.

Simla, September 17, 1907.

I HAVE written to-day to Mr. Chang, pointing out to him that, in the Thibetan copy of your credentials from the Lhasa Government, certain unsuitable expressions have been used, and requesting Mr. Chang to arrange that, in your revised credentials, these expressions should be corrected. The attached paper will show the expressions to which I take exception. I trust that you also will take steps to secure that the necessary corrections are made, so that in future no such misapprehension may recur.

* A derogatory term usually used for a "messenger."

† A derogatory expression used in cases of an inferior making a request to a superior.

‡ Instead of "the English Government" a common term used for any office. An improper term to be used for British Government.

§ The wording is obscure here. The sentence really runs: "The English office having again appointed Chang the Great Minister, &c."

|| This paragraph is very obscurely worded. Our English translation differs considerably from that made by Mr. Chang's staff.

Inclosure 20 in No. 104.

Chang Yin Tang to Government of India.

September 20, 1907.

I HAVE duly received your letter of the 17th September, and the inclosed copy of your English translation of the credentials of the Thibetan Delegate.

In our last interview on the 12th instant, my Commission, transmitted by telegraph, had been handed to, and examined by, you, which, having been found to be in good and due form, is, I trust, substantially sufficient to prove my having full and plenary powers. The Chinese Foreign Office has already sent me my Commission in original by post, but, considering the long distance between China and Simla, I can hardly say that it will reach me by the date you chose to show your own.

I do believe, however, that there will not be a long time before its arrival.

The Commission of the Thibetan Delegate, as we agreed, and our agreement having been confirmed by my letter of the 14th September, had already been sent back to the Ti-Rimpoche at Lhasa to be altered.

Of the five terms and expressions you thought (*vide* your English translation) improper, derogatory, or obscure, I am sorry to say that, after having your translation compared with the Thibetan original with the utmost attention and the minutest care, it does seem to me that improper use of terms and expressions and obscure translations are not exactly what the Thibetan officials are blamable for.

I might here as well point out to you that, in our rendering the Thibetan Commission into English for your information, it was not handled with much carelessness as you suppose.

Now let me clearly explain to you the five points you protested against:—

1. The Thibetan term “mi-na,” though not very suitable for the British Ambassador at Peking, is still not a derogatory term as you say. It has often been used to address the Chinese Ambassadors or Ambans in Thibetan conversations and documents; and we certainly cannot find that it ever embodies the definition which you were pleased to suppose is usually used for “a messenger.”

2. Your English rendering of the Thibetan expression “shu-sal” as “submitted a petition” is far too great an extension of the meaning of the term. It has never got any meaning more than “to state, or inform.”

3. The Thibetan term “le-kung” is usually used for any place where the body-politic of a State meets for affairs, and is by no means an improper term to be used for “Government”; for instance, in Chinese we have not got a term quite equivalent to the English term “Government.” What forms the Chinese Government is four Great Councillors, whom, as a whole, are usually addressed as “Chun-Chi-Chu,” that is, “the place (or office) of Privy Councils.”

4. Your English translation makes the Thibetan sentence “Yin-ji-imi-na ne shu-sal hrak-dru la yin-ji-i le-kung ne lar-yang Trang Lon-chen Ko-shak dze-te chok-tsung wang-lung yo-pai shor-tu trak-dzuk mi Po-pon-rik nyam tri hin kyo yo-pa-tang” in the Commission run thus: “The English Office having again appointed Chang, the Great Minister, &c.”

The Thibetan Delegate and his Staff, having carefully and deliberately analyzed that sentence, did not find anything in the least that justifies your criticism, for the sentence really runs: “The British Government again requested that Chang Ta-jên should be appointed,” &c. This must be a misapprehension on the part of your Staff.

5. The Thibetan expression “tuk-shib yo-pa shu-gyu” really means “to take note of this” or “for approval,” meaning that the Ti-Rimpoche requested Chang Ta-jên to approve of the official he selected and to take note of it. The English translation you rendered of it “requesting him to investigate matters carefully” is doubtless due to a misapprehension of the whole expression.

The above explanations of mine will, I trust, render you free of your suspicions or any misconceptions, and to save time and correspondence, I hope that no further needless corrections will be demanded by you. In my opinion, in concluding a Treaty between two Powers, it is the faith and honesty of the two Contracting Parties rather than the mere wordings of the documents that binds.

I am very sorry to learn from Mr. Wilton that you have been suffering from a fever, and hoping that you have quite recovered yourself by this time, I await the pleasure of meeting you again in the “Bower,” Mashobra, on Monday next, at 2.30 P.M.

Inclosure 21 in No. 104.

Translation of Letter received from the Tsarong Shape, dated September 20, 1907.

(Envelope addressed to the Foreign Secretary.)

REGARDING the letter just received from you. With reference to the four expressions used in the credentials given to me by the Thibetan Government, namely, the word "Mina" for the Great Minister representing England, "Shu" (*i.e.*, to submit a petition), "le-kung" (*i.e.*, office), &c., and which you say are unsuitable and should be altered, I have consulted the Great Amban and we have considered the matter. As to the word "Mi-na," it is the custom of nations to speak of any kind of officials as "Mi-na." The word "Shu" means to make a representation." The word "le-kung" means the place of meeting for the transaction of Government business." Please do not suspect that these expressions were intended to be disrespectful. As regards the expression which we agreed should be altered, we have already represented the matter to Lhasa, and should be unwilling to ask for any further alterations.

From the Tsarong Shape, dated the 4th of the month.

Inclosure 22 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to Chang Ta-jên.

Simla, September 27, 1907.

I HAVE to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of the 20th September, and readily accept your explanation of the doubt which had arisen as to the passages in the credentials of the Shape, mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 of your letter. The Shape has also informed me that, in using the somewhat ambiguous terms "Mina," "Shu," and "Lekung," the Thibetan Government did not intend any disrespect, and I am quite willing to accept his assurances, and no doubt we shall be able to settle with him Thibetan equivalents for the English terms in question which cannot be open to any misconception.

I fully agree with you that the main point in all negotiations is to secure good faith and honesty on the part of the contracting parties, but it is also desirable that no doubts should be left as to the meaning of important documents affecting the negotiations.

As regards your own commission, I can only repeat what I mentioned at our first formal meeting—that the Indian Government had been duly notified of your appointment by the Imperial Chinese Government in the same way as that Government had been notified of my appointment by His Majesty's Government, and that, in the circumstances, I did not desire to stand on any formalities in the matter, feeling sure that the commissions would arrive in due course.

I am very sorry indeed to learn that you have been and are so ill, but I trust that the fine air of Mashobra at this season will soon restore you to perfect health. I await your promised communication as to the time of our next meeting at the "Bower."

Inclosure 23 in No. 104.

Sir L. Dane to the Tsarong Shape.

Simla, September 27, 1907.

I HAVE duly received your letter of the 20th September, and readily accept your assurance that the terms "Mina," "Shu," and "Lekung," in your commission, were not used by the Thibetan Government in a disrespectful sense. As, however, they are admittedly terms of very wide meaning, and hence somewhat ambiguous, I trust that during the present negotiations you will be kind enough to arrange with Captain O'Connor verbally what Thibetan terms should be used to denote the British Minister at Peking, the British Government, the Government of India, the Viceroy, and Governor-General of India, and such terms as we may have occasion to use frequently during the course of our negotiations and in future correspondence, so that no doubt may recur as to what is actually meant.

I trust that you are keeping well, and that on Mr. Chang's recovery we may soon have another meeting.

[36861]

No. 105.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 8.)

Sir,

India Office, November 7, 1907.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th instant, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Government of India as to the negotiations for the revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

The Government of India have been instructed to repeat their telegram to His Majesty's Minister at Peking, and to forward to him by post copies of the correspondence and the draft Regulations referred to in their telegram.

As regards the request of the Government of India for instructions regarding the points raised in their telegram of the 22nd October, Mr. Morley presumes that it will be desirable to await Sir J. Jordan's views on the subject before any opinion is expressed by His Majesty's Government. He would suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that the Chinese Government should be pressed for an early reply to the representations made to them by His Majesty's Minister on the points raised by the Government of India's telegram of the 22nd October.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 5, 1907.

PLEASE see my telegram of the 22nd October as to negotiations for revision of Thibet Trade Regulations.

It was fully explained to Chang Tajen and Shape, at successive meetings by Sir L. Dane, what his views were in regard to draft Regulations proposed by Chang, and on the 31st October he communicated to them draft of his own based on draft approved by you, but following in form Chang's draft, such of his provisions as seemed to be unobjectionable being included in it. Text of Dane's draft was forwarded by last mail, together with a copy of covering letter to Chang. In this letter Dane noted that, in the event of the suggested compromise falling through, he reserved the right, as explained by him at meetings, to revert to his original position. It was further noted in the letter that Dane's proposals on certain points must, pending instructions from His Majesty's Government, be regarded as tentative.

In a letter which Dane received from Chang on the 2nd November, latter promises to send a reply to the draft generally. On receipt of this reply we will address you further regarding the points above mentioned.

Chang announced to Dane on the 2nd November, without any previous notice, that he proposed to leave Simla on the 5th November, and requested that there might be a resumption of negotiations in Calcutta. To this Dane has agreed, but further delay is thereby involved in arriving at a settlement of the matter.

It may be observed that no business meeting was held till the 12th September, although Chang arrived at Simla on the 24th August, the reason being that before commencing discussion, Chang desired to have an interview with the Viceroy. This interview was arranged for the 6th September, having been asked for on the 4th idem.

After the one business meeting on the 12th, referred to above, Chang excused himself from further meetings till the 21st October on the score of ill-health. It is understood, however, that the state of his health did not prevent him from pursuing his ordinary avocations. Even then Dane found difficulty in securing any oral discussion, which in the circumstances was essential, of questions before them. We should be glad, if possible before the next meeting, which will be held in Calcutta, takes place, to receive your instructions as to the points raised in our telegram of the 22nd ultimo.

It is desired, with a view to facilitate reference, if necessary, that copies of draft Regulations and letters handed to Chang should be transmitted by post to Peking.

[36861]

No. 106.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 119.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 8, 1907.

TRADE Regulations negotiations. Please see my telegram No. 115 of the 1st instant and Government of India's telegram of the 5th instant.

You should endeavour to induce the Chinese Government to send an early reply to the representations which you addressed to them on the points raised in the telegram of the 22nd ultimo from the Government of India.

[37079]

No. 107.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 192.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, November 10, 1907.

THIBET. Please see your telegrams Nos. 115 and 119, dated 1st and 8th November respectively.

In reply to my written representations to the Wai-wu Pu on the points raised in the Government of India's telegram of the 22nd ultimo, I have to-day received a Memorandum from the Board, in which they state that although the validity of the Lhasa Convention of 1904 has never failed to be recognized by China, yet the express stipulation of Article I of the Convention of 1906 to the effect that both High Contracting Parties would at all times take steps, &c., obviously points to the Chinese and British Governments as the High Contracting Parties concerned. Consequently it is understood that when occasion arises "to take steps" under any clause in Convention of 1904 such steps are to be taken by the Governments of Great Britain and China.

The claim put forward by Chang to the effect that Thibet has no voice in the matter except through China is therefore, they state, quite in accordance with Article I of the Convention of 1906.

I shall endeavour to induce the Wai-wu Pu, at an interview which I shall have on the 12th instant, to view their Treaty obligations in a more reasonable manner.

I have repeated this telegram to the Government of India.

[37431]

No. 108.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 195.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, November 11, 1907.

THIBET. Please see my telegram No. 192 of the 10th instant.

Wai-wu Pu promise me that they will reconsider the question, and send me their reply later.

They are willing to accept Sir Louis Dane's proposed description of Shape, and to agree to latter's taking part in the negotiations. They pressed me to support the view which they hold that it would be derogatory to China that Shape should sign the Regulations.

In support of my refusal to consider this suggestion, which I said was entirely contrary to the spirit of the Conventions, I quoted the Commercial Treaty recently concluded between Canada and France as an analogous instance of negotiations being conducted between a dependency and a foreign Power direct.

I have repeated this telegram to the Government of India.

[37514]

No. 109.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 196.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, November 13, 1907.

MOVEMENTS of Dalai Lama. Please see my telegram No. 252 of the 29th December, 1906.

Yuan Shih Kai mentioned incidentally during conversation yesterday at Wai-wu Pu regarding Thibetan negotiations that the Court had given permission to the Dalai Lama

to proceed from Ninghsia to Wutaishan, in the Province of Shansi, and that he was *en route*. His Excellency added that if the Dalai Lama, as was probable, asked for leave to come to Peking, being so close to the capital, the Emperor would be glad to accord him an audience.

So long as he does not return to Thibet, I presume that we can hardly raise objections to his being received in Peking.

I have repeated this to the Government of India.

[37518]

No. 110.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 390. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1907.

WITH reference to Mr. O'Beirne's despatch No. 393 of the 29th July last, I have received a communication from the India Office, inquiring whether it would be possible to obtain information as to the route to be actually followed by Colonel Kozlov in his explorations in Western China. It is considered that some indication might thereby be obtained of what Russia takes to be the eastern frontier of Thibet, taking into regard the statement made by M. Isvolsky, to the effect that Colonel Kozlov has been warned that he must not cross the Thibetan frontier.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will endeavour to obtain the information desired.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[37965]

No. 111.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 470.)

Sir,

Peking, September 28, 1907.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your telegrams Nos. 101 and 104 of the 9th and 18th instant, I duly obtained from my Russian colleague on the 26th instant a copy of the text of the Arrangement signed on the 31st August between Great Britain and Russia regarding Thibet, and entered into consultation with M. Pokotilow as to the steps which we should take for communicating it to the Chinese Government, and for giving effect to our instructions on the subject of the prohibition of scientific Missions to Thibet, and of the definition of the limits of that country.

We considered it advisable, in the first instance, to prepare the way by ascertaining unofficially the views of the Chinese Government on the latter point, and with this object we prepared a draft note, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

This we agreed to submit to the Wai-wu Pu immediately after we had communicated the text of the Arrangement, with an intimation that it would be sent in as a formal note as soon as we received an assurance that it would meet with a favourable reply.

In pursuance of this understanding we made separate visits yesterday afternoon to the Wai-wu Pu, and were received by his Excellency Liang Tun-yen, the only Minister present.

In handing Liang Ta-jên a copy of the Arrangement, I explained that it fully recognized the suzerainty of China over Thibet, while taking note of the privileges secured to us in that country by Treaty. His Excellency immediately inquired why it should have been thought necessary to make mention of a Treaty with China in an Arrangement with Russia, to which I replied that it was doubtless considered advisable to define the respective positions which the Signatory Powers occupied with regard to the country to which the Arrangement related. I assured his Excellency that on examination he would find nothing in the document to which exception could be taken.

Liang Ta-jên said that the Arrangement being in French he was unable to read it, and would require to have it translated before venturing upon an expression of opinion.

I then proceeded to explain to Liang Ta-jên the Arrangement, as recorded in my despatch No. 408 of the 22nd August, which I had made at a previous interview with his Excellency Na T'ung regarding an exchange of notes on the subject of the prohibition of scientific Missions entering Thibet, to which the Chinese Government was invited to adhere. I had prepared a draft note in consultation with my Russian colleague, which I would now submit to the Wai-wu Pu, on the understanding that if its terms proved acceptable to the Chinese Government it would, on my receiving an intimation to that effect, be forwarded to the Board officially. The reply of the Chinese Government could be similarly agreed upon beforehand.

Liang Ta-jên promised to consider the matter in consultation with his colleagues, and let me know their views in due course.

The Russian Minister, who called a little later, received a similar reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Sir J. Jordan to Prince Ching.

Your Highness,

Peking [undated].

IN pursuance of instructions which I have received from His Majesty's Secretary of State, I have the honour to inform your Highness that the Governments of Great Britain and Russia have decided, so far as lies in their power, to permit no scientific Missions to proceed into Thibet for a period of three years without the mutual consent of both Governments.

I am instructed to invite the Chinese Government to consent also to do what lies in their power to prohibit the entry of scientific Missions into Thibet for a similar period of three years; and in asking for a Declaration to this effect, I am to request the Imperial Government to be so good as to define the limits of Thibet.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[38111]

No. 112.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(November 18.)

Sir,

India Office, November 18, 1907.

IN reply to your letter dated the 14th instant, I am directed to say that Mr. Secretary Morley concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform His Majesty's Minister at Peking that His Majesty's Government cannot object to the Dalai Lama's reception at Peking.

A copy of a telegram to the Government of India, dated the 15th instant, asking their views regarding the Dalai Lama's return to Thibet is inclosed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)* P.
THIBET.

India Office, November 15, 1907.

His Majesty's Minister at Peking is being informed, with reference to his telegram of the 13th instant, that no objection to Dalai Lama's reception at Peking can be taken by His Majesty's Government.

As regards the question of the Lama's return to Thibet, I shall be glad to receive your views.

[38111]

No. 113.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 126.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 20, 1907.

THE Dalai Lama: Please see your telegram No. 196 of the 13th instant.

With regard to the return of the Dalai Lama to Thibet, the views of the Government of India are being ascertained, but His Majesty's Government cannot object to his reception at Peking.

[38727]

No. 114.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 579.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, November 20, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 390, Confidential, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to state that I mentioned the subject of Colonel Kosloff's expedition in Western China to M. Isvolsky, and said that I should consider it a kindness if he could furnish me with that officer's itinerary. His Excellency said that he would have much pleasure in doing so, and he recollected having spoken to Mr. O'Beirne on the subject in July last. I beg leave to transmit copy of a Memorandum which I received this morning from his Excellency, giving in very general terms an outline of the proposed expedition, and which, I am afraid, will not quite meet the wishes of the India Office, as it does not in any way amplify the information transmitted in Mr. O'Beirne's despatch No. 393. I do not know if you would desire me to approach M. Isvolsky again on the subject, but I doubt if I shall be able to obtain any detailed information beyond that already given.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 114.

M. Isvolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.

D'APRÈS les informations fournies par la Société Impériale de Géographie sur l'expédition du Lieutenant-Colonel Kosloff en Chine, ce dernier se propose de suivre l'itinéraire général suivant :—

Après avoir quitté la ville frontière de Kiachta, l'expédition se dirigera sur Ourga à travers le Désert de Gobi et Alachane et visitera les provinces de Kan-sou et de Ssetchouen. Le retour de l'expédition s'effectuera également par le Gobi.

La durée de l'expédition est fixée à deux ans.

Saint-Pétersbourg, le 6 (19) Novembre, 1907.

[38982]

No. 115.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 203.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, November 25, 1907.

THIBET Trade Regulations.

My telegram No. 192 of the 10th instant.

I have received from the Wai-wu Pu a preamble, of which the following is the substance :—

“Whereas it was stipulated by Article I of the Convention between China and Great Britain of the 27th April, 1906, that the Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, between Great Britain and Thibet should be attached thereto as an Annex, and that both the High Contracting Parties should engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein; and whereas China and Great Britain are now desirous of taking steps to secure the due fulfilment of the terms aforesaid by the negotiation of Thibetan

Trade Regulations, His Majesty the Emperor of China and His Britannic Majesty have for this purpose named Plenipotentiaries: His Majesty the Emperor, Chang Yin T'ang; and His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperor of India, Sir Louis Dane; and whereas by Article III of the Lhasa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, Thibet undertook to appoint fully authorized Representatives, the high authorities of Thibet have appointed . . . as their fully authorized Representative to act under the directions of Chang Ta-jên and take part in the negotiations; and whereas Chang Ta-jên and Sir Louis Dane have communicated to each other their respective full powers and have found them to be in good and true form, and have found the authorization of the Thibetan Delegate to be also in good and true form, the following amended Regulations have been agreed upon."

It is of course intended that the reference in the first clause of Chang's draft preamble to Article III of the Lhasa Convention, which would thus become unnecessary, should be covered by the above formula.

If the proposal is in other respects regarded as acceptable, the words "is hereby confirmed," which are suppressed in the Wai-wu Pu's quotation of Article I of the 1906 Convention, would have to be restored. Wai-wu Pu omit also to quote textually Article III of 1904.

I have insisted that Regulations must be signed by Shape, and a definite assurance on this point would be obtained before accepting.

I have repeated this telegram to the Government of India.

[39323]

No. 116.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 482.)

Sir,

Peking, October 14, 1907.

IN my despatch No. 470 of the 28th ultimo I had the honour to report the communication to the Wai-wu Pu by my Russian colleague and myself of the Anglo-Russian Arrangement respecting Thibet of the 31st August last, and the steps which we had taken to give effect to our instructions on the subject of the prohibition of scientific missions.

Mr. Liang Tun-yen, the Minister to whom the draft note inviting the co-operation of China in enforcing the prohibition and requesting a definition of the limits of Thibet was handed, called upon me in connection with other questions on the 4th instant, and after leaving sent me the inclosed Memorandum with a private note, explaining that he had forgotten to deliver it personally at our interview. A copy was sent with no covering communication to my Russian colleague on the following day.

The Memorandum, which is the Wai-wu Pu's reply to our draft note, states that China has not in the past permitted foreigners to travel in Thibet, and that she will adhere to this course in the future. No change, it is added, has been made in the limits of Thibet, and the old limits should be regarded as authoritative. The Board considers that there is no necessity for a definition of them, and no need for a formal communication on the subject.

The substance of this Memorandum was communicated to you in my telegram No. 175 of the 5th instant, and since then I have had the honour to receive your telegrams Nos. 107 and 108, in which you informed me of the exchange of views which had taken place between His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg and the Acting Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and stated that you did not propose to pursue the question further with the Chinese Government.

My Russian colleague and I both agree that no useful purpose would be served by again approaching the Wai-wu Pu on the subject. As their reception of the recent Franco-Japanese Agreement showed, the Chinese Government are very sensitive at present in matters of this kind, and there is no reason to doubt that they will maintain in principle the policy they have pursued in the past of excluding foreign travellers from Thibet, although the weakness of their administrative control on a long and little known frontier-line may render the strict enforcement of this policy a matter of extreme difficulty in practice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Memorandum respecting Prohibition of Scientific Missions to Thibet.

(Translation.)

YOUR Excellency recently handed us the draft of a note to the effect that Great Britain and Russia had decided to permit no scientific mission to proceed into Thibet for a period of three years without the mutual consent of both Governments, and inviting the Chinese Government also to do what lies in their power to prohibit the entry of scientific missions into Thibet for a similar period of three years, and also requesting the Imperial Government to define the limits of Thibet.

The Board has the honour to state that China has not hitherto permitted any foreigners of any description whatever to travel in Thibet, and must still continue to pursue this course. As regards the limits of Thibet, the Board has further the honour to state that no change has ever been made in them, and the old limits should be regarded as authoritative. There is no necessity to send a definition of them. Nor is there any need for a note on this subject.

[39730]

No. 117.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 10th October, relative to representations regarding the unsuitableness of Gyantse as a trade mart.

India Office, December 2, 1907.

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

Mr. de Righi to Government of India.

Sir,

Drum Druid Hotel, Darjeeling, September 26, 1907.

IN continuation of my telegram dated Gyantse, the 13th August, I beg to further point out to you the unsuitableness of Gyantse as a trade mart, especially so to European traders, who, being prevented from going any further into the country, are subject to very unfair competition with Indian native traders, who may go wherever they please as long as they like to take the risk; from my personal observation I cannot see that very much trade can be done at Gyantse, and I think Lhasa and Shigatse should be opened up for trade for both European and native alike.

When I was in Gyantse the Parsee firm who are at present there offered to sell me wool, which they were getting from Shigatse at a much higher rate than I should have been able to get it if I had been allowed to go there and buy on my own account.

The transport question from India to the Chumbi Valley as it is at present will hinder trade very much; something should be done to prevent owners of transport animals from demanding extortionate rates; in my case I was forced to pay double the usual rate or I should have been stranded at Kalimpong for want of transport, as the manager of the Government estate, on my applying to him for help, informed me that he had no power to force mule owners to accept the proper rate, which should be not more than 6 rupees per animal for the journey to Chumbi.

I take the liberty of suggesting that all persons, be they Indians or Thibetans, who do a carrying trade should be licensed, and under this licence a fixed rate could be made, and no one but a licence-holder should be allowed to be a carrier in Indian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. R. DE RIGHI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

Government of India to Mr. de Righi.

Sir,

Simla, October 8, 1907.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th ultimo, in which you submit your views with regard to certain matters concerning trade with Thibet.

In reply, I am to say that the Government of India are unable to hold out any hope that trade marts will be established at Lhasa and Shigatse in the near future. Your observations regarding transport for traders will receive consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. E. HOLLAND.

[39895]

No. 118.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in letters from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 31st October and 7th November, relative to the negotiations relative to the Thibet Trade Regulations.

India Office, December 4, 1907.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Mr. Haywood to Government of India.

Calcutta, October 1, 1907.

I AM directed to address you on the subject of the trade in Indian brick tea with Thibet.

2. Negotiations with reference to the Thibetan Trade Regulations are, it is understood, now in progress. The present may be therefore, the Executive Committee think, a suitable time for placing before Government a short statement of the efforts which have been made to introduce Indian tea into Thibet. According to the Regulations which were appended to the Sikkim-Thibet Convention of 1890, the importation of Indian tea into the country was prohibited for a period of five years from the 1st May, 1894. After that date tea was to be admitted subject to a customs duty not exceeding that levied upon Chinese tea in England. The five years period came to an end on the 30th April, 1899, since when continuous but unsuccessful efforts have been made by the Indian industry to push the trade.

3. It may be urged that the Indian planters were unable to manufacture a suitable description of tea; that they were ignorant of the trade methods of the country; and that they had no machinery for distributing their product. All this is admitted, but it is not applicable to the present state of things. For, as the Government of India are aware, the Cess Committee deputed a Commissioner to China in 1905 to study the manufacture of brick tea in the Province of Szechuan. The results of this inquiry were embodied in a report, giving such practical directions as have enabled planters to make tea in all respects similar to the Chinese article. Thibetan trading methods have since been examined on the spot by an agent appointed for the purpose by the Committee; and, so far as the Indian tea industry is concerned, there seems to be no reason why an organized system of importation and distribution should not be established. To permit of this the Committee are prepared to appoint agents, if necessary, and to afford financial assistance from the Cess funds during such time as the trade may need it.

4. It is hardly necessary to remind the Government of India that the consumption of tea in Thibet is very large. In fact, the market is one the importance of which has been recognized by Indian planters for very many years past. The Trade Regulations of 1894 had of course a most discouraging effect, and even after the expiration of the five years period it was impossible to discover whether Indian tea would be admitted into the country or not. Moreover, Yatung, the Treaty port, is a most inconvenient point of entry. It is off the main track of trade, and is altogether unsuitable as a

commercial centre. Gyantse also is not, the Committee are informed by their agent, a trade mart, and is not likely ever to become such. Business seems to be chiefly transacted at Lhasa, or Shigatse, both of which places are closed to Europeans.

5. In addition to this difficulty, the question of the rate of customs duty to be paid on Indian tea needs to be considered. The Committee have no information as to what the present position is; but they presume that the Regulations of 1894 are at any rate nominally in force. They see no justification for the levy of so high a maximum rate of duty as is prescribed by the Regulations. In fact, they are of opinion that Indian tea should be admitted free. But if this cannot be arranged they certainly think that the rate should not be higher than 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, which is understood to be the maximum leviable upon other classes of foreign merchandise passing into Chinese territory through the Treaty ports. It should also be remembered that Chinese tea is admitted into India on payment of a customs duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

6. From what has been said you will understand that, although the purely commercial difficulties in the way of establishing the trade have been overcome, the political obstacles still remain. There is no prospect of the trade expanding until these are removed, but the Committee are of course powerless in that direction. It seems to them, however, that some action might be taken by the Government of India now that the trade relations subsisting between the two countries are being reviewed. And if they are correct in this assumption they would urge most strongly that the interests of the Indian tea industry should not be overlooked in the present negotiations, but that such arrangements should be made as will enable Indian producers to compete for the market with the Chinese growers.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Notes of Conversations held on October 10 and 13, 1907, between Mr. E. C. Wilton and Mr. Liu, Secretary to Mr. Chang.

I SUBMIT the following topics of conversation between Mr. Liu and myself on the 10th October.

1. Delay in the negotiations.

Mr. Liu referred to the question of the Thibetan translation of Chang Ta-jên's draft Regulations, and asked me if Sir Louis Dane were really anxious for it. Mr. Liu added that the demand for this translation would protract the negotiations.

I replied that Sir Louis Dane had already written asking for this translation, which had been promised at the last interview on the 12th September, and that reasons had then been given and apparently accepted why this translation was required. In regard to his remark about protracting negotiations, I pointed out that Chang Ta-jên had arrived seven weeks ago, and unfortunately, owing to his continued ill-health, the result of the negotiations during that time had been meagre in the extreme. I understood that Sir Louis Dane had important business in Burmah in another six weeks, and that, unless the negotiations were concluded before then, it seemed to me that the Chinese New Year (beginning of February) would still see us engaged in these negotiations.

2. Chang Ta-jên's date of departure from Simla.

As I had heard in the morning a rumour that Chang Ta-jên was preparing to remove to Calcutta on the 1st November, I endeavoured to sound Mr. Liu on the subject. All I was able to gather was that Chang Ta-jên appeared to be undecided whether he would take a house at Alipore or live at the Grand Hotel. There was, however, nothing in Mr. Liu's remarks to lead me to suppose that Chang Ta-jên contemplated returning to China without continuing the negotiations at Calcutta.

3. The Thibetan Shape.

Mr. Liu told me that the Thibetan Shape remained constantly in his room, complained that the food did not agree with him, and did not frequent the society of either Chang Ta-jên or his staff.

4. Prospect of troubles in China.

Mr. Liu said that the Empress Dowager would resign all her powers into the hands of the Emperor next year (February). He admitted that the Empress Dowager was in a very weak state of health, which he put down to senile delay, and declared that her death, or even her resignation, would certainly lead to violent disturbances in China, and more especially in the north. The heir had not yet been chosen, but he thought

that Prince P'u-lun, of whom he had not a high opinion, would be chosen. Yuan Shih-kai would, he thought, return to Tien-tsin as Governor-General after reorganizing the Wai-wu Pu, and possibly Tang Shao-yi would be appointed to the Board of War. The present President of that Board, T'ieh Liang, a man of no energy or capacity, was dominated by his Secretary, Liang Pi. I said that I had heard that Tang Shao-yi did not like India. Mr. Liu rejoined that Tang Shao-yi appeared to have very pleasant recollections of his life in the United States.

5. Yu Tai, ex-Amban at Lhasa.

During a previous conversation Mr. Liu had told me that Yu Tai, ex-Amban at Lhasa, who had been banished to Chinese Turkestan, had been allowed to return to Peking.

I asked him to-day if he thought Yu Tai would be employed again.

Mr. Liu was very guarded in reply, and said that, although he was a connection of the Empress Dowager, still the charges of corruption against him were very serious.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

October 13, 1907.

I received a letter at Simla from Mr. Liu on Saturday afternoon, the 12th October, asking me for an appointment at 3.30 that day. I telephoned that I should not be out until 6 P.M., and invited him to lunch on the 13th October.

Our conversation was almost entirely confined to matters in connection with the negotiations.

Mr. Liu began that Chang Ta-jên had been expecting a categorical reply to his draft Regulations, and presumed that as none had come the draft met with approval. This draft, he said, had been prepared by Chang Ta-jên in consultation with the Chinese Government, and insured our desire for the development of commercial relations with Thibet. Mr. Liu reminded me that I had told him that the policy of the British Government in Thibet aimed only at obtaining trade facilities. Mr. Liu presumed that the cause of Sir L. Dane's delay in replying to Chang Ta-jên was due to a misunderstanding.

I repeated that I believed the policy of the British Government in Thibet aimed only at obtaining trade facilities, but that, of course, any existing rights and privileges would be rigidly maintained. I considered that, so far from Chang Ta-jên's draft developing trade, its tendency seemed to me to stifle, if not actually to kill, existing trade. This unfortunate tendency was presumably not intentional, and I was sanguine that the matter would be set right as soon as Sir L. Dane were given an opportunity of stating his views in detail to Chang Ta-jên. So far from there being any misunderstanding on Sir L. Dane's part, I reminded Mr. Liu that it had been arranged at the interview on the 12th September that Memoranda in the English, Chinese, and Thibetan languages should be exchanged a day or two before the interview fixed for the 21st September. It was plain to me that the intention was that the parties concerned might have a basis for discussion at this interview. The Memoranda had been exchanged, but the interview had not yet taken place.

Mr. Liu then asked me if I was acquainted with the nature of Sir L. Dane's objections to the draft, and on receiving my reply in the affirmative, he pressed me to state them in detail. I declined, but told him that, speaking in general terms and on my own authority, there were points quite unacceptable, others probably capable of adjustment, while two or three clauses with slight alteration appeared to be unobjectionable.

Mr. Liu requested me to tell him whether the question of direct dealings with the Thibetans was a vital point.

I replied that in this particular question I supposed we should stand by precedent and by our Treaties and Declarations. Mr. Liu pointed out the advantages that an informal discussion between him and me would have in clearing the ground for the Commissioners.

I considered I should be fortunate in discussing any matters with him, but that the present position was that Sir L. Dane was awaiting Chang Ta-jên's convenience to discuss these very points. I reminded him that Sir L. Dane had come up to Mahasu specially to meet Chang Ta-jên, and had gone away disappointed at not having been able to hold a single meeting.

Mr. Liu then asked me if I would ask Sir L. Dane—

1. Whether he would send a categorical reply to Chang Ta-jên's draft before the next interview; or

2. Whether he would consent that Mr. Liu and myself should discuss the points at issue before the next interview.

I agreed to communicate at once with Sir L. Dane and to give a reply to Mr. Liu on his visit to me on Monday, the 14th October, at 11 A.M. From Mr. Liu's manner and evident anxiety, I gathered that Chang Ta-jên is apprehensive of—

1. The negotiations being protracted until February next ;
2. A rupture of negotiations from our side ;

and that, in any case, Chang Ta-jên is no longer prepared to unduly postpone an interview.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

October 13, 1907.

Inclosure 3 in No. 118.

Note of a Conversation between Mr. E. C. Wilton and Mr. Liu, Secretary to Mr. Chang, held October 16, 1907.

MR. LIU called upon me by appointment on Wednesday, the 16th October, and we had a lengthy discussion of over four hours on the Chinese draft Regulations presented by Mr. Chang. We took this draft clause by clause, and I pointed out the objections and proposed amendments, while Mr. Liu offered his remarks in reply :—

Preamble.—I showed Mr. Liu the form of our preamble, and, after reading it through, he objected to “confirmation, further elucidation, and fuller execution, &c.” There was little doubt that Mr. Liu was making an opening for us to discuss the question of China's “sovereignty” or “suzerainty” over Thibet, but, as I thought this matter could be more satisfactorily dealt with later in discussing clauses 20 and 22, I contented myself with remarking that these two phrases were in Sir L. Dane's Royal Commission, copy of which I thereupon handed to him.

1. I told Mr. Liu that this clause could not be accepted, as our Treaties gave us the right to reside at the trade marts, and we could not consent to be restricted within given areas such as were proposed.

Mr. Liu replied that no restrictions were intended, and that the market areas were really intended more for the restriction of “the subjects of all other nationalities.”

I said that we were not concerned about “the subjects of all other nationalities,” and I could not see why they were dragged into a question affecting the Chinese, Thibetans, and ourselves. But might I infer that this clause meant that British subjects were at liberty to reside within the market area or outside—just as they pleased ?

Mr. Liu was doubtful, and thought the principle of the market areas was the same as the Settlements at Shanghai, Tien-tsin, and Hankow.

I pointed out to Mr. Liu that the “areas” for British subjects at Hankow and Tien-tsin were entirely under the sole control of the British Consul in every matter, including police, municipal affairs, and jurisdiction. If he would tell me that Chang Ta-jên was prepared to agree to the leasing at the various marts of exclusive British Concessions under the conditions prevailing at Hankow and Tien-tsin, I would submit this point for Sir L. Dane's consideration.

Mr. Liu, who did not appear to be familiar with the nature of these “Concessions,” seemed to be favourable to the idea, which he promised to suggest to Chang Ta-jên.

2. I asked Mr. Liu what was meant by “questions of supreme importance.”

Mr. Liu would neither quote me a hypothetical case nor would he give me any answer.

3, 4, 5, 6 (a), 6 (b). I said it was useless for us to discuss these clauses, as they all depend on the “market area” principle, to which we could not agree.

6 (c). I suggested the substitution of “Thibetan higher authorities” for China.

Mr. Liu wanted to know why we should ignore China in this way after recognizing her suzerainty. The Thibetans were grossly ignorant and quite incapable of judicial reform, so that the alteration proposed would make this clause ridiculous.

I agreed that the clause would be an empty form, but supposed that there would be no objection on our side to its omission. There was no intention of ignoring China, but Mr. Liu must remember that the judicial system in Thibet was purely Thibetan and administered by Thibetan officials only. There was not, I said, throughout Thibet a single Chinese officer who administered the Thibetan laws. Under

these circumstances, the assent of the Thibetans would have to be obtained as a preliminary step before China could attempt a reorganization of the Thibetan judicial system.

Mr. Liu agreed that this question of reform was not easy, but he asked me to submit that in 6 (c) for "China" might be substituted "the Thibetan high authorities under the direction of the Chinese Government." Mr. Liu's first suggestion was "Amban," which he finally altered to "Chinese Government."

7. I said we wished to keep the rest-houses already built and in our occupation.

Mr. Liu at first opposed this strongly, alleging that the possession of rest-houses in Thibet by the Indian Government was a blow to Chinese suzerainty over Thibet. I pointed out that we had no political motives in this matter, but that it was simply a question of the convenience of our officials travelling on duty. The point was really of no significance to either China or Thibet. If Mr. Chang still held that it was an infringement of Chinese suzerainty, why could not the difficulty be removed by the Thibetans consenting to lease the ground on which the rest-houses were standing to the Indian Government for a term of years?

Mr. Liu promised to recommend this to the favourable consideration of Chang Ta-jên.

8. I said that this clause should be omitted, as it infringed our rights under Article II of the Lhasa Convention. I explained to Mr. Liu that the words "free right of access" and "no restrictions on trade by existing routes" were expressly inserted to safeguard our commercial rights and privileges prior to this Lhasa Treaty. I quoted the practice of Indian subjects visiting places in Thibet for purposes of trade other than the marts now opened, and pointed out that we claimed the right for our traders to carry on trade already established in places and along routes which had been used for such purposes.

Mr. Liu asked for an example illustrating trade established in places other than the trade marts.

I quoted Sikkim, where frontier trade had been carried on with Shigatse and intermediate places for a very long time. This trade was in danger now, as the Thibetan local authorities were hampering it, alleging instructions from Chang Ta-jên.

9, 10. I said that the questions of extradition and Chinese Consuls in India were outside the scope of these Regulations, but that if they were brought up after the conclusion of these Trade Regulations I supposed that they would afford material for the basis of a friendly discussion.

Mr. Liu agreed.

11. For "officials" of both Powers" I proposed "the authorities concerned."

After repeating some remarks as to Chinese suzerainty, Mr. Liu made a note of the proposal.

12. I proposed that the obligations of the local authorities should be more strongly emphasized, and that the local authorities should be held responsible for losses if they proved inefficient.

Mr. Liu strongly opposed any change, and said that the amendment would afford a pretext for bringing pressure to bear on Thibet, whose methods of policing were, he admitted, very inefficient, and that it was contrary to international usage to hold the authorities responsible for the losses incurred by robbery. I instanced the case of Forrest, whose property was plundered by Thibetans in 1904 on the Yünnan-Thibet frontier, in which an indemnity for losses was handed over by the Yünnan authorities.

13. I told Mr. Liu that, seeing that Thibet managed her own revenues, including the collection of external trade imposts, I did not understand why China should fix the trade duties according to the tariff of the Imperial Maritime Customs. The trade of Thibet with India was purely a land trade, and it seemed to me, apart from other considerations, inconsistent that a maritime tariff should be applied.

Mr. Liu rejoined that a Commissioner of the Maritime Customs had been established at Yatung for years past under the Yatung Convention.

I pointed out that there was no reference in the Yatung Convention or Trade Regulations as to the establishment of the Imperial Maritime Customs at Yatung.

Mr. Liu said we had accepted the establishment of Imperial Maritime Customs at Yatung.

I suggested we might avoid this line of argument and confine ourselves to considering whether the Imperial Maritime Customs Tariff was applicable to Thibet. I pointed out the enormous extent of land frontier between India and Thibet and the certainty of successful smuggling, and hazarded the conjecture that the maintenance of an even tolerably efficient Customs staff would cost ten times the amount collected.

Mr. Liu agreed, and naïvely admitted that this was the reason why China did not desire to collect the duties at present. Personally, he did not believe that the Indo-Thibetan trade would ever develop into anything considerable, but China reserved the right of collecting the duties at the moment when she considered it advisable. I pointed out that, assuming for the sake of argument this right claimed by China, the uncertainty would effectually check commercial enterprise, and in clause 14 China expressed herself anxious to develop the trade of Thibet.

Mr. Liu agreed to recommend the omission of clause 13.

14. I objected to the exclusion of tea on the general grounds that we claimed freedom of trade.

Mr. Liu said that he had contemplated this objection, but that after hearing China's side of the case he thought we would withdraw our objection. The revenue from the Yachou brick tea trade was, he said, not very large, amounting to 100,000 taels (2½ lakhs of rupees) per annum. Still that was a consideration. The main point, however, was the constant employment it gave to the workmen at the tea centres and to the thousands of Chinese porters engaged in transporting the tea to Tachienlu and to the Thibetans who carried it on to Lhasa. The failure of the Yachou brick tea trade with Thibet meant ruin to the countryside between Yachou and Lhasa.

I sympathized with Mr. Liu's remarks, but declared that my own observation led me to believe that Indian brick tea could never compete at Lhasa with the Chinese article, and I gave Mr. Liu my reasons for this belief. The utmost that Indian tea could hope for would be to obtain an entry into Western Thibet, and increased trade would enable the Thibetans there to buy not only Chinese but also Indian tea. Owing to the enormous distances and cost of transport the supply of Chinese tea in Western Thibet was very limited in supply, and the very worst that could happen would be that an insignificant amount of Chinese tea might be replaced by Indian. On the other hand, the increased prosperity resultant on the happier conditions of Indo-Thibetan trade would enable the Thibetans at Lhasa and in Eastern Thibet generally to further indulge their passion for Chinese brick tea, and the gain on this side would, I believed, far outweigh the possible, but by no means certain, trifling losses on the western side. Mr. Liu, who appeared to take a practical view of the case, admitted that while he himself looked at the matter very much from our own point of view, still he had an uneasy feeling that China would be the loser. He noted my remarks, and promised to convey them to Chang Ta-jên.

15. I proposed the omission of—

- (1.) Salt, cigarettes, leaf tobacco.
- (2.) "Except under the special permit of the Amban at Lhasa."
- (3.) "Violation of this Regulation shall render the offender liable to arrest, confiscation of the prohibited articles, and a heavy fine."

(1.) Mr. Liu said Thibet had large supplies of salt, and he attributed no importance to the omission of salt. He objected to the omission of cigarettes and leaf tobacco, as competing with Chinese trade from the east.

(2.) After some discussion he agreed to recommend that "or permitted only on such conditions as either on their own side may see fit to impose" should be substituted for our proposed omission (2).

(3.) He objected, but on my pointing out that "arrest" was dangerous, as he took it to mean arrest by the Customs authorities, which would be an infringement of extra-territoriality, he requested me to ask that the words "Violation of this Regulation shall render the offender liable to confiscation, &c.," should be retained.

16. I objected to this clause, and pointed out that the withdrawal of our garrison from Chumbi would necessarily mean that all the privileges conferred by occupation should cease. It was, moreover, not the practice of British Trade Agents or frontier officers to bring armed troops across the frontier.

Mr. Liu said that the clause also implied the withdrawal of the Trade Agent's escort, *e.g.*, at Gyantse.

I replied that this was not possible. I pointed out the insecurity of Thibet, and Gyantse in particular, and instanced Kashgar and Urga, where Russian Consuls had guards. Mr. Liu appeared to readily give in on this point, but complained of the excesses committed by the British escort at Gyantse, and that numerous Petitions had been presented to Chang Ta-jên on this score.

I asked Mr. Liu if he would send me these Petitions for perusal, and he agreed to do so.

Mr. Liu said it appeared as if the Trade Agent either could not or would not control his escort.

I dissented, and said that I was certain that misbehaviour would be punished as soon as brought to the notice of the Trade Agent.

Mr. Liu then asked that a clause should be inserted to the effect that the British Trade Agent should be held responsible for the effective control and discipline of his escort.

17. I read out clause 11 of our "amalgamated draft" to replace this.

Mr. Liu apparently made no objection. He noted our objection to the prohibition of the export of gold, silver, copper coins.

18. I said we proposed that the present Trade Regulations should cancel the Yatung Trade Regulations.

Mr. Liu offered no remarks.

19. Mr. Liu offered no remarks to the proposal to cut out this clause as being a matter affecting the respective Trade Agents.

20. I said that, following the precedent of the Yatung Trade Regulations, we proposed that there should be no ratification.

Mr. Liu said that Chang Ta-jên maintained that, considering the high dignity of the two Commissioners, ratification should take place.

I replied that, assuming that these Regulations were to be ratified, it would be necessary to add "London and Lhasa" in clause 22.

Mr. Liu rejoined that there would be no objection to "London," but "Lhasa" could on no account be added. There was no Government of Thibet. Thibet was absolutely under China.

I could not agree, and pointed out that the Acting Dalai Lama, the three Great Monasteries, the Shapes, and the National Assembly constituted the high authorities of Thibet, that is to say, the Government of Thibet. A special Thibetan Delegate with full powers was representing Thibet at this Conference. Indeed, under Article III of the Lhasa Treaty, we could have claimed the right to negotiate these Regulations solely and directly with the Thibetan Representatives; but the British Government had in this instance, in deference to China's wishes, agreed to waive this right. But I thought a concession of this kind should not be imposed upon. China was the Suzerain but not the Sovereign of Thibet. This point of difference had been the crux in the Fraser-Tang negotiations at Calcutta in 1905, and I could positively assure Mr. Liu that any attempt, direct or indirect, to claim from the British Government the recognition of China's sovereignty over Thibet would be mere waste of time. I quoted the Tsung-li Yamên's views in 1890, which showed that they had recoiled from the responsibility of sovereignty; and also the more recent conversation between the British Legation and the Wai-wu Pu. These all showed that Thibet was not a province of China, but a vassal State which managed its own internal administration and collected its own revenues. China's suzerainty lay in the fact that China claimed to direct the foreign relations of Thibet. Our own position seemed to me to be that we claimed the right to deal directly with Thibet in matters affecting the Treaty of Lhasa. Outside these, we had expressly declared, frankly and freely, that we recognized China's suzerainty, but not her sovereignty, over Thibet.

Mr. Liu listened patiently to my remarks, and declared that he himself held the opinion that China was the Suzerain and not the Sovereign of Thibet, but that ratification at Lhasa was out of the question for China to concede.

I suggested, therefore, that it would be a solution of this difficulty for China if no ratification took place. At the commencement and conclusion of our discussion I impressed on Mr. Liu that my remarks were without prejudice to the British Commissioner, and that our discussion was to be considered informal. He agreed, and made a similar statement.

At the close of our discussion, which was conducted throughout in the most amicable manner, Mr. Liu opened the subject of the strained relations which had existed at Gyantse between Captain O'Connor and Mr. Gow. The Wai-wu Pu, he said, complained of the former's unreasonable attitude. I replied that the truth of the matter appeared to me to be that Mr. Gow, with an imperfect knowledge of the situation, had wrongly interfered with the direct relations of Captain O'Connor with the local Thibetan authorities, an interference to which Captain O'Connor, as British Trade Agent, could not submit. Our Trade Agents in Thibet were, I was sure, ready to meet Chinese and Thibetan officials half-way, but they could not be expected to tamely brook uncalled-for interference with their rights and authority.

In reply to my inquiry, Mr. Liu thought that Chang Ta-jên would probably leave for Calcutta in about a fortnight. At Mr. Liu's request I sent him, the following day, copies of Sir Louis Dane's Royal Commission, and of the preamble and clauses 1 (paragraph 3 only), 4, and 12 of our "amalgamated draft" (the 9th October).

Mr. Liu expressed his thanks for our friendly discussion, and said that, while declaring that many of our proposals did not appear acceptable, still he admitted that, from a British point of view, there was a good deal of reason on our side.

I have endeavoured to give the account of our interview faithfully, but if it should appear too favourable to us I should like it to be understood that my experience teaches me that in discussions of this character a liberal discount off the favourable impression should be made.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

October 18, 1907.

Inclosure 4 in No. 118.

Note of a Conversation between Mr. E. C. Wilton and Mr. Liu, Secretary to Mr. Chang, held October 19, 1907.

MR. LIU came to see me on Saturday, the 19th October.

We went over the ground we had covered in our last interview of the 16th October. The number of the clauses given below refer to the Chinese draft Regulations:—

Preamble.—Mr. Chang objected to our preamble and wished also to omit "and whereas it was stipulated in Article III of the Treaty that the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893 required amendment" from his own preamble.

Mr. Liu explained that Chang Ta-jên did not wish to refer to Article III of the Lhasa Convention. This Article was, he said, included in the concluding portion of Article I of the Peking Convention.

I was quite unable to agree with Mr. Liu as to the interpretation he had endeavoured to put upon this passage, which clearly signified that China and Great Britain agreed to share the responsibility of securing the due fulfilment of the obligations incurred by the Thibetans under the Lhasa Treaty. Mr. Liu proceeded that Chang Ta-jên also objected to the "Thibet Government." The "Shang shang" was merely a head office, and it was not possible to recognize an institution in Thibet as the Government of Thibet and so placing Thibet on an equality in that respect with Great Britain and China. Moreover, last month a telegram had been received from Tang Shao-yi saying that the Peking Convention had eliminated the words "Thibet Government" from the Lhasa Treaty. Mr. Liu also said that Article I of the Peking Convention read "rectified" for "confirmed" in the Chinese text.

I pointed out that the British Government apparently recognize the "Thibet Government," consisting of the Acting Dalai Lama, the four Shaves, the Representatives of the three great monasteries, and the National Assembly, and there was nothing in the Peking Convention to bear out the assertion of Tang Shao-yi. "Thibet" may have been substituted for "Thibet Government" in the Chinese text, but the English text was authoritative. Tang Shao-yi, during his negotiations with Mr. Fraser, had, I knew, endeavoured to "rectify" the Lhasa Treaty by pressing for the substitution of "China undertakes to direct the Thibetans" for "the Thibetan Government," but this had been rejected and never accepted by the British Government. Mr. Liu did not deny my suggestion that Chang Ta-jên was endeavouring to follow in the footsteps of Tang Shao-yi. I took the opportunity of warning him that any such endeavour would only mean a wasteful protraction of these negotiations.

1. Mr. Liu said that Chang Ta-jên was prepared to offer generous limits for the market area, and he proposed the establishment of Mixed Courts to hear mixed cases. Chang Ta-jên admitted the principle of British jurisdiction over British subjects, but he was not disposed to agree to British Concessions.

I remarked that I thought the principle of market areas was bad, and that British subjects had the right to reside anywhere at the trade marts.

2. Mr. Chang declined to omit the last sentence, which had been specially inserted by the Wai-wu Pu.

Mr. Liu agreed to submit the following: "Questions of supreme importance, in which both countries are concerned, other than those affected by the Lhasa Treaty of 1904, shall be dealt with jointly by the officials of Great Britain and China."

3. Mr. Chang could see no possible objection to the manner he proposed of leasing land.

I said that the rent of land at the trade marts should be fixed at a fair rate by the Thibetan authorities in consultation with the British Trade Agent.

Mr. Liu feared that Chang Ta-jên would not agree to this, as he held that, even if the rents fixed should be excessive, still the British traders could recoup themselves by proportionately raising the prices of their goods—a curious argument, at which Mr. Liu and I laughed (informally).

7. Chang Ta-jên objected to our retaining the rest-houses. Mr. Liu agreed to recommend that we should sell the rest-houses at cost price and then lease them at a fair rent for a term of years.

8. According to Mr. Liu, Chang Ta-jên appears disposed to meet us in our objection. He does not oppose natives of India trading to places and proceeding by routes privileged by custom, although he objects to native surveyors of the A. K. and Nain Singh type. Moreover, he objects absolutely to British Europeans going beyond the trade marts, although they may proceed by the main routes from mart to mart.

9, 10. Chang Ta-jên wishes to include these two clauses in the present Trade Regulations.

12. Chang Ta-jên objects to hold the local authorities responsible for losses by robbery.

13. Chang Ta-jên will consult with the Wai-wu Pu as to the omission of this clause, and in the meantime reserves a decision.

14. Chang Ta-jên adheres to the exclusion of tea except under the conditions laid down in the Trade Regulations, 1893, Article 4, paragraph 2.

15. The outstanding difference is of no great importance and can be discussed on Monday.

16. Chang Ta-jên is disposed to agree to the omission of this clause, but reserves the question of escorts for discussion on Monday.

17. The same as 15.

18. Chang Ta-jên objects to the omission of this clause, as important points in the Yatung Trade Regulations would be left out.

19. Chang Ta-jên reserves for discussion on Monday.

21. Chang Ta-jên objects to the specific mention of a Thibetan text in the present Regulations, but apparently agrees to a separate authoritative Thibetan text.

22. Wai-wu Pu desires ratification as being more formal.

Discussion on the Points raised by Clauses 1, 4 (paragraph 3), and 12 of our Amalgamated Draft.

1. Chang Ta-jên objects to the unduly high rank claimed, and he desires to omit all reference to definition of rank.

Mr. Liu suggested that the Thibetan Trade Agent might be of a Jongpen's rank.

4. Chang Ta-jên is prepared to accept this, with the following amendments:—

(a.) Paragraph 3 to correspond textually with paragraph 2.

(b.) "Or their employés" to be omitted throughout.

In reference to (b), Mr. Liu said that he would accept provisionally a clause in the general sense of our clause 3, paragraph 2.

12. Chang Ta-jên objects to "shall make such arrangements as they think fit."

Mr. Liu agreed to recommend the following: "Shall be free to engage couriers."

Mr. Liu and I formally agreed that, while these couriers shall not enjoy the privileges and immunities of British subjects in Thibet, they shall not be prejudiced by the fact of their employment.

Inclosure 5 in No. 118.

Notes recorded by Mr. E. C. Wilton on the subject of the Negotiations connected with the Revision of the Thibet Trade Regulations.

MR. CHANG, Chinese Special Commissioner, arrived at Simla by special train on the 24th August at 4:30 P.M. He was accorded a salute of fifteen guns, and was met at

the station by Mr. Holland, Assistant Secretary in the Foreign Department, who had been deputed by Sir Louis Dane, the Foreign Secretary and Commissioner for the negotiations concerning the Thibet Trade Regulations, with a letter of welcome to Mr. Chang. Captain O'Connor, with a similar letter addressed to the Tsarong Shape, the Thibetan Delegate, was also present.

On the 26th August a letter, dated the 25th August, was received from Mr. Chang proposing to call on Sir Louis Dane at his office on the 27th August at noon. Owing to an unavoidable engagement with his Excellency the Viceroy, the Commissioner appointed the 28th August at noon for the reception, and it was intimated to the Chinese Commissioner that full-dress uniform would be worn.

On the 28th August Mr. Chang, attended by his Secretary, Ho Tsao Hsiang, and his Interpreter, Leotenhy, and accompanied by the Tsarong Shape, attended by a Thibetan inferior official (Chinese-Thibetan interpreter), arrived at the Foreign Department at 10.50, and were shown into the official waiting-room, where Mr. Wilton kept the party engaged in conversation. In the course of this conversation Mr. Wilton told Mr. Chang that he proposed occupying a house near those occupied by Mr. Chang and his suite at Mashobra, and Mr. Chang thereupon volunteered the remark that this arrangement would facilitate discussion of business. At 11.15 Captain O'Connor announced that Sir Louis Dane was ready, and would receive Mr. Chang and the Tsarong Shape, together with their respective suites. As Captain O'Connor informed Mr. Wilton that he had received the Commissioner's instructions to conduct the Tsarong Shape to the reception-room after the Chinese Commissioner, Mr. Wilton requested Mr. Chang to proceed. Mr. Chang demurred and wished to take the Tsarong Shape with him; but on its being pointed out to him that he was the Chinese Commissioner, and should therefore precede the Thibetan Delegate, he proceeded to the Secretary's office, which had been prepared for the reception, and was followed at a brief interval by the Tsarong Shape. Sir Louis Dane conducted Mr. Chang to a seat opposite himself, and the latter's staff sat on their Commissioner's right hand. The Shape was similarly conducted to a seat opposite Sir Louis Dane and on Mr. Chang's left hand, while the Thibetan inferior official sat on a seat at the Delegate's left hand. Mr. Leotenhy acted as Chinese Interpreter, and Captain O'Connor as Thibetan Interpreter. The conversation was formal, and the Commissioner, while conversing principally with Mr. Chang, did not leave the Shape out in the cold. Light refreshments were served, and a return visit was arranged for the next day at 4.30 P.M. The Commissioner accompanied the Chinese Commissioner and Thibetan Delegate to the head of the main passage, and Mr. Wilton attended Mr. Chang and his suite to their rickshaws, while Captain O'Connor performed a similar office for the Thibetan Delegate.

The Commissioner, Messrs. Wilton and Holland, and Captain O'Connor returned the visits of Mr. Chang and the Tsarong Shape at "The Bower," as previously arranged, on Thursday, the 29th August, at 4.30 P.M. The Chinese Secretary, Ho Tsao Hsiang, and Interpreter, Leotenhy, met the Commissioner and his staff as they dismounted at the door, and conducted them to the reception-room, where the Chinese Commissioner and the Thibetan Delegate were waiting. The two Commissioners sat together at the head of the room. Immediately on Mr. Chang's left hand sat the Tsarong Shape, then the Chinese Secretary, the Chinese Interpreter, and, lastly, the Thibetan inferior official.

Mr. Wilton acted as Chinese Interpreter, and Captain O'Connor as Thibetan Interpreter.

After conventional conversation the Commissioner informed the Thibetan Delegate that he understood he had brought some Thibetan assistants to help him in the negotiations. On receiving a reply in the affirmative, Sir Louis Dane expressed a wish to Mr. Chang that they might be presented to him, so that he might have an opportunity of welcoming these Thibetan dignitaries to India. Mr. Chang at first evaded the request by stating that they were not suitably dressed for the occasion. The Commissioner pressed his point, and Mr. Chang reluctantly consented to produce them. After a little delay six Thibetans came forward; these included two high ecclesiastical officers and a monk representative of the three great monasteries of Dre-pung, Sera, and Ga-den. They were formally named and presented to Sir Louis Dane by Captain O'Connor. The Commissioner greeted them cordially, and briefly expressed his pleasure at meeting them.

In the course of further conversation Sir Louis Dane remarked to Mr. Chang that the ecclesiastical power was great in Thibet, but the latter replied that the lamas now attended only to their religious duties. The two Commissioners agreed that semi-official communications might be used in the interchange of ordinary correspondence.

Mr. Chang said that, as soon as his official business permitted, he hoped to see his Excellency the Viceroy. The term used by Mr. Chang for Viceroy was the one officially applied to the Governor of Hong Kong. Mr. Wilton corrected him by politely pointing out that "Viceroy of India" could not be translated by "Tsung Tu," and that the term employed was, in full, "Yin Tu Yüchien Chieh Tu Ta-jên."

The proceedings concluded by an invitation to Mr. Chang and his staff to lunch at the Commissioner's residence on Saturday, an invitation which was readily accepted by Mr. Chang.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

August 30, 1907.

Note by Mr. Wilton.

Mr. Chang appears to have wished the Commissioner to ignore the Thibetan Delegate, firstly, because negotiations might then have been carried on entirely between the two Commissioners; and, secondly, because Tsarong Shape and his Thibetan assistants, hurt by the slight, would have been prejudiced against Sir Louis Dane at the outset. The result of these two formal interviews should have shown Mr. Chang that Sir Louis Dane, while negotiating with Mr. Chang as a colleague, intends also to have direct dealings, as occasion requires, with the Tsarong Shape as a Delegate of Thibet.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

August 30, 1907.

On Thursday, the 12th September, at 12.15 P.M., Mr. Chang, attended by Messrs. Ho and Liu, and accompanied by the Tsarong Shape, met Sir Louis Dane and his staff, Messrs. Wilton and Holland, and Captain O'Connor. After a brief interchange of courtesies, Sir Louis Dane informed Mr. Chang that His Majesty's Minister at Peking had stated that the Chinese Government had conferred on Mr. Chang plenary powers to negotiate and sign, and that similar credentials had been granted to the Tsarong Shape by the Thibetan authorities. He had not, however, heard anything on the subject of the Tsarong Shape's powers from the Thibetan authorities, and must ask to see the credentials of the Thibetan Delegate.

Mr. Chang agreed, and produced a typewritten translation in English of the Thibetan Commission.

Sir Louis Dane asked to see the original Thibetan document, which was produced duly impressed with the seal of the Dalai Lama affixed by the Ti-Rimpoche. On reading over the English translation, Sir Louis Dane considered the credentials satisfactory, except the passage: "He (the Tsarong Shape) shall also report me (the Ti-Rimpoche) at all times the conditions of the conferences for my decision." The British Commissioner briefly pointed out the nature of his objections, firstly, that the ambiguity of the wording might lead him to suppose that the restrictions on the action of the Thibetan Delegate would lead to unduly prolonged delays in these negotiations, and, secondly, that it might enable the Thibetan authorities hereafter to repudiate the Regulations, even if they had been signed by their Representative, on the ground that the conditions had not been referred for the decision of the Ti-Rimpoche. Sir Louis Dane pointed out that the matter was of importance, as the Thibetan repudiation of the Yatung Convention (1890) and the Trade Regulations (1893), which Chinese authority had not been able to make them withdraw, even although a Thibetan officer had been present during the negotiations, had largely led to the recent trouble. He therefore suggested that the objectionable phrase in the Commission should be deleted by the Ti-Rimpoche, but intimated that the negotiation of the Thibet Trade Regulations might go on provisionally, pending the receipt of a new Commission, if the Chinese and Thibetan Delegates were prepared to make such a reference to Lhasa.

Mr. Chang at first opposed the request, but, after a great deal of discussion, during which Sir Louis Dane pointed out that if the phrase was merely intended to convey private instructions to the Thibetan Delegate and did not affect the value of the Commission to bestow plenary powers, there could be no objection to its removal from the Commission, Mr. Chang agreed to the request, remarking that the matter was of no importance.

In the meantime, Captain O'Connor had compared the original with the translation.

and found that the literal interpretation of the Thibetan text appeared to be: "On one side he (Tsarong Shape) should negotiate thus, and from time to time when we receive his communications we will carefully consider them and take action accordingly." This rendering was not so open to objection, but, as the sentence was still doubtful, it was thought better to secure a draft free from ambiguity, if possible.

Captain O'Connor also asked the Shape what construction he himself placed on this particular sentence. The Shape regarded it in the light of instructions to himself from the Ti-Rimpoche. The Shape demurred, however, at applying to Lhasa for the omission of this sentence from his Commission, but, on learning that Mr. Chang had agreed to the suggestion, he dropped his objections.

It was thereupon definitely agreed between the Commissioners that the original Commission of the Thibetan Delegate should be returned to Lhasa and the Ti-Rimpoche requested to erase the sentence to which Sir Louis Dane had taken exception.

Mr. Chang also produced an English translation of his own plenary powers which had been telegraphed to him. He asked to see Sir Louis Dane's credentials, on which the Viceroy's letter of appointment was handed to him. Mr. Chang pointed out that the Commission appeared to have been issued by the Government of India and not by the British Government. At present, apparently, neither Mr. Chang nor himself had received anything but telegraphic intimation of their appointments, but that for Mr. Chang's greater assurance the Government of India, as one of the parties interested, had also given him a letter of appointment, pending receipt of the Commission from His Majesty's Government. When this arrived, and Mr. Chang received his own original Commission, these could be compared and verified.

Mr. Chang proposed that Sir Louis Dane should present him with a draft of the amendments which the British Government desired to have made in the Yatung Trade Regulations. On Sir Louis Dane replying that he would prefer to receive the first draft of amendments from Mr. Chang, the latter made repeated use of the statement that, as His Majesty's Minister at Peking in the first instance had asked the Wai-wu Pu to make the necessary arrangements for the revision of the Yatung Trade Regulations, in accordance with Article III of the Lhasa Treaty (1904), it would be in order for the British Commissioner to take the initiative in tendering amendments desired by the British Government. As Mr. Chang appeared to have no other argument, Sir Louis Dane pointed out to him that as a matter of fact it was the Wai-wu Pu who had asked His Majesty's Minister in writing for the appointment of Commissioners to negotiate Thibet Trade Regulations in amendment of the Yatung Trade Regulations. Sir L. Dane further explained that this action of the Wai-wu Pu appeared to have resulted from the remonstrance of the Minister as to the non-fulfilment of Article V of the Lhasa Treaty as regards the failure to appoint Thibetan Agents at the trade marts. However, Sir L. Dane was anxious to meet Mr. Chang, and proposed, therefore, that at the next meeting the two Commissioners and the Thibetan Delegate should exchange Memoranda embodying the amendments each party required.

Mr. Chang admitted that for his part he considered no amendments necessary in the Yatung Regulations, but he had heard that complaints had been made, through His Majesty's Minister at Peking, of dissatisfaction as to the condition of affairs at Gyantse and in the Chumbi Valley.

Finally, it was agreed that the next meeting should take place at the "Bower," Mahasu, on the 21st September at 2 P.M., when Memoranda, embodying the amendments in the existing Trade Regulations each party desired in the English, Chinese, and Thibetan languages, should be exchanged between the two Commissioners and the Thibetan Delegate.

The proceedings terminated at 3 P.M.

(Signed)

E. C. WILTON.

September 13, 1907.

An interview took place between Sir Louis Dane and Chang Ta-jên at the "Bower" on Monday, the 21st October, at 11 A.M. The Tsarong Shape was present.

Sir Louis Dane read out his Royal Commission, a copy of which had been previously sent to Chang Ta-jên. The copy, at the latter's request, was signed by Sir L. Dane. Chang Ta-jên stated that the original of his Commission had not yet arrived from Peking. Sir L. Dane inquired if any answer had come from Lhasa to the request (the 14th September) for an amendment of the Shape's Commission, and was informed that none had yet been received.

Sir L. Dane then inquired from the Chinese and Thibetan Representatives severally if they had any objection to offer to his credentials. They replied that they had not.

An informal discussion of two hours then took place on the Preamble to the Draft Regulations drawn up by Chang Ta-jên.

Sir L. Dane began by referring to the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893, to which there was no preamble, and declared that, the negotiations being those of Trade Regulations only, he would have preferred no preamble in the present instance. However, as Chang Ta-jên had written out a preamble and still desired that there should be such a preamble, he had given it his careful consideration, but had come to the conclusion that he was unable to accept it as it stood, and had therefore proposed an alternative wording, which had been sent to Mr. Liu by Mr. Wilton on the 17th October.

Chang Ta-jên replied that His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking and the Wai-wu Pu had come to an understanding that Great Britain and China should appoint Plenipotentiaries to discuss these Regulations. In these circumstances, it was evident that these negotiations differed in degree from those of 1893, when the Chinese Commissioner had been nominated by the Amban at Lhasa. He therefore desired to head the Regulations with a preamble, but was unable to accept the one offered in place of his own.

Sir L. Dane rejoined that the only communication received from His Majesty's Minister at Peking in this connection referred to the appointment of a Thibetan Delegate with full powers from the high authorities of Thibet.

Chang Ta-jên said that these negotiations had been originated on account of Article I in the Peking Convention of 1906, wherein it was stated, "and both of the High Contracting Parties engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein."

Sir L. Dane explained that Article III of the Lhasa Treaty, 1904, expressly provided for direct negotiations between British and Thibetan Representatives to consider the question of the amendment of the Regulations of 1893. In deference to the wishes of China, Great Britain had conceded the point that the negotiations might take place with China and Thibet, but had insisted that the Thibetan Government should be represented by a fully authorized Delegate. Although he himself preferred that these negotiations should shape themselves into the form of Regulations without a preamble, still he would not raise any objections to a preamble provided that it showed that the Thibetan Delegate was appointed by Thibet and could act on behalf of Thibet. Chang Ta-jên's preamble stated that the Delegate had been appointed by the Emperor of China to act under the directions of Chang Ta-jên. As a matter of fact, however, the Commission held by the Tsarong Shape was issued by the high authorities of Thibet, and sealed with the seal of the Dalai Lama. Though this was not quite in accordance with his Royal Commission, he was prepared to recommend to his Government that in an amended preamble a declaration should be inserted that the Thibetan Delegate was under the direction of Chang Ta-jên, but it would be necessary for him to declare that the Thibetan Government had appointed a Delegate with full powers, otherwise Thibet might repudiate these Regulations in the same way as the Yatung Convention of 1890 and the Trade Regulations of 1893 had been repudiated. A lengthy interchange of views took place as to whether or not the Shape had been appointed by China.

Chang Ta-jên appeared to take up the untenable position that the Amban at Lhasa had appointed the Thibetan Delegate in this instance, and, moreover, argued that every Thibetan official could be and was directly appointed by the Amban.

Sir L. Dane referred to the Shape's credentials, in which it was stated that the appointment had been made by the high authorities of Thibet, in other words, the Government of Thibet. The custom, he had been assured, prevailing in Thibet, a vassal State controlling its own revenues, and managing its own internal administration, was that the Government officers were chosen in the first instance by the Thibetans themselves.

The conversation at this point took a new turn, as Chang Ta-jên told the Thibetan Delegate not to read the copy of the Lhasa Treaty which Captain O'Connor had handed to him, as the Treaty had been altered by the more recent Peking Convention. In reply to Sir L. Dane's protest at this remark, Chang Ta-jên explained that the Lhasa Treaty had been rectified by the Peking Convention, giving as his authority the receipt of a telegram from Tang Shao-yi two days after the conclusion of the Peking Convention.

Sir L. Dane replied that it was true that the word "Thibet" had been used in the Peking Convention when the words "the Thibetan Government" might have been employed, but this had been done in deference to China's susceptibilities, and the difference was one of form and not of meaning. Article I of the Peking Convention, so far from "rectifying," actually "confirmed" the Lhasa Treaty. The Lhasa Treaty remained a valid document, entire in itself, and had not been altered one iota by the conclusion of the Peking Convention of 1906. Moreover, the words "the Thibetan Government" appeared in his Royal Commission, and he was therefore bound to suggest this form, but he was prepared to request the British Government to allow the substitution of the form of words "the high authorities of Thibet" or "Thibet." He must, however, insist on the insertion in the preamble of a statement to the effect that "the Thibetan Government" or "the high authorities of Thibet" or "Thibet" appointed a Delegate with full powers, otherwise, as he had remarked before, he feared repudiation of these Regulations by the Thibetans. Sir L. Dane then read out a draft of his proposed preamble. Chang Ta-jên was not prepared to accept it offhand, as he desired to await the receipt, in a week's time, of the English text of the Peking Convention being sent to him from Peking.

After some further discussion, it was agreed that Chang Ta-jên would consider the preamble proposed by Sir L. Dane, which should be sent to him in writing.

During the conversation Sir L. Dane asked if the Thibetan Delegate had made a translation of the Chinese draft Regulations which had been promised to Sir L. Dane.

It transpired that the translation was not yet ready, although the Delegate stated that he had a rough translation. He was told by Mr. Chang to get this, and with it he then followed the proceedings. The Conference was adjourned at 1:15 for lunch.

It was evident from the morning's interview that Chang Ta-jên was reluctant to abandon his standpoint that the Peking Convention had superseded the Lhasa Treaty. This was very marked when he put aside the suggestion of his Secretaries, Messrs. Ho and Liu, that it might be admitted that Thibet had appointed the Thibetan Delegate with full powers.

At 2:45 the negotiations were resumed, and the first five clauses of the Chinese draft Regulations were dealt with. Sir L. Dane read out the first clause, together with the first sentence of Article 2 of the Trade Regulations of 1893. He would prefer, he said, to retain the right of unrestricted residence at the trade marts rather than to exchange this right for the system of market areas proposed by Chang Ta-jên. Sir L. Dane pointed out the complications and difficulties likely to arise for China from the attraction to the marts of the subjects of all other nationalities. These negotiations were not concerned with the opening of Thibet to general trade, but were merely for the revision of the existing rules for trade between India and Thibet. He must therefore adhere to the rights conferred by Article 2 of the Trade Regulations of 1893, and Article 2, part 2, of the Lhasa Treaty. He was prepared, however, to agree to a residential zone, which would vary according to the conditions of the various marts, *e.g.*, at Yatung the radius might be half-a-mile and at Gyantse 2 miles.

Chang Ta-jên said that he was inspired by the desire to develop trade and to avoid complications in the future. The system of market areas appeared to him admirable, and there was a precedent for marking out residential limits in the case of Yatung, which was bounded on the Thibetan side by the wall across the valley.

Sir L. Dane pointed out that there appeared to be no limits to Yatung in the other direction, and that, in any case, there had never been any consultation with the British authorities as to the marking out of a market-place at Yatung, where his information led him to believe such a market-place did not exist.

Chang T-jên, who at first stated that the Yatung Mart extended up the valley to Chema or Phema, rejoined that Yatung was a small, obscure mart and that the conditions of residence there could not apply to Gyantse, where a market area such as he had proposed was necessary. On being asked whether he desired to apply the system of market areas to Gartok, Chang Ta-jên replied in the affirmative, but withdrew his remark on learning that Gartok had no more than a score of houses.

Clause 2.—Sir L. Dane passed on to clause 2, and pointed out that the question of the Trade Agents ranking on the same footing would depend on the status of the officers so appointed. For instance, Captain O'Connor had been appointed as Trade Agent at Gyantse, an officer who, if employed in China, would hold the rank of Consul.

Chang Ta-jên assured Sir L. Dane that the official rank of the officers appointed would correspond to those of Taotai and Prefect.

As the Thibetan Delegate declared that there was no equivalent to "chao hui" and

"pai hui" in the Thibetan language, it was agreed that the discussion of this point, which was of no moment, might be postponed.

In reference to the sentence, "Questions of supreme importance in which both countries are concerned shall be dealt with jointly by the officials of Great Britain and China," Chang Ta-jên admitted that the meaning was that matters unable to be decided by the local Trade Agents should be referred to the Amban at Lhasa and to the Viceroy in India. Sir L. Dane said he was quite prepared to accept this rendering, substituting the official designation of the "Government of India" for "Viceroy." Chang Ta-jên, however, declined to amend the sentence in any way, as it had been inserted under express orders from the Wai-wu Pu, and desired to reserve further discussion until he should have received the draft of our proposed Regulations. Chang Ta-jên admitted that it was contemplated that a Chinese officer might be appointed to the post of Thibetan Trade Agent.

Clause 3.—The discussion of clause 3 opened afresh the antagonistic views as to rights of unrestricted residence and the system of market areas at the marts. Chang Ta-jên reiterated his contention that the conditions at Yatung were not applicable to Gyantse.

Sir L. Dane was prepared to consider the question of a purely British Concession on the lines of Hankow and Tien-tsin, but maintained the right of free and unrestricted residence at Gyantse under Article 2 of the Trade Regulations of 1893, and also Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Lhasa Treaty, 1904. He agreed that all applications from British subjects for leasing land or houses should pass through the British Trade Agent. There was no wish, he said, on the part of the Indian Government to encourage any but *bonâ fide* traders at the marts, and proof of this had been lately given.

Chang Ta-jên remarked that Sven Hedin, the Swedish traveller, held a passport and letters from the Viceroy of India.

Sir L. Dane replied that no passport or letters of protection had been issued to Sven Hedin by the Indian Government, and that he had heard that the passport held by this traveller had been given by the Chinese Minister in London.

Chang Ta-jên said that the Chinese Minister had only issued a passport to Sven Hedin for Chinese Turkestan. Some discussion took place as to the ten years' lease, which was contrary to practice in China, and might be very unfair to house-owners, and it was conceded by Chang Ta-jên that "ten" might be extended to "twenty or thirty."

Sir L. Dane objected to the establishment of a Municipal Office, which he considered premature and out of place in view of the actual conditions of Thibet, in spite of Chang Ta-jên's arguments as to the benefits which would be thereby conferred on British traders.

Clause 4.—Sir L. Dane objected to this on the ground that he was not prepared to give up the rights of unrestricted residence at the marts in return for the proposed system of market areas.

Clause 5.—Sir L. Dane expressed his desire to retain the British Trade Agent's guard. He pointed out the insecurity of life in Thibet, and referred to the incident of the sudden and unprovoked attack on the British camp at Gyantse in 1904, when hostilities had ceased pending proposals for negotiations. Consular guards were stationed at the Russian Consulates, Kashgar and Urga, and were common in countries where the administration was not fully developed. As soon as it was advisable the escort might be reduced or withdrawn altogether, but that under present conditions it was necessary to retain the escorts.

Chang Ta-jên objected to the presence of "soldiers," and at first suggested that the Trade Agent should have a larger establishment in order to protect him, but withdrew the suggestion on Sir L. Dane's inquiry whether he had any objection to the members of the establishment carrying arms.

The Shape took practically no part in the discussion, and would not let any one see his Thibetan rendering of the draft Regulations.

The next meeting was fixed for Wednesday, the 23rd October, at 11 A.M., at "The Nest."

(Signed)

E. C. WILTON.

October 22, 1907.

Inclosure 6 in No. 118.

Interviews between Sir L. Dane and Chang Ta-jên at "The Nest" on Wednesday, October 23, at 11 A.M., and at "The Bower" on Thursday, October 24, 1907, at 11 A.M.

Clause 6 (a).—Sir L. Dane said that, while there was no reference to the matters dealt with in 6 (a) and (b) in the Yatung Trade Regulations of 1893, still he concurred that they should be considered now. Touching the question of Judicial Courts, however, these were not possible at Gartok or Yatung, even if admissible for Gyantse, an admission he was not prepared to make.

Chang Ta-jên referred to the copy of Regulation 4 of our draft which had been sent to him on the 17th October, and expressed himself as dissatisfied with the differences of the texts in paragraphs 2 and 3—"Thibetan subjects who may be guilty of any criminal act towards British subjects" and "British subjects who may commit any crime"

Sir L. Dane pointed out that the phraseology was that used in the Tien-tsin Treaty, Article XVI, and that the reason of the difference was that, Thibetan subjects being under the Thibetan law, it was not necessary to legislate in these Regulations for their offences other than those against British subjects, whereas any crime committed in Thibet by British subjects would necessarily include offences against Thibetans.

Chang Ta-jên admitted the principle that British subjects should be under the sole jurisdiction of the British Trade Agents, and similarly Chinese and Thibetans under Chinese and Thibetan authorities. He maintained, however, that a Judicial Court should be established to hear mixed cases. By mixed cases he meant cases in which the plaintiff and defendant were of different nationalities, *e.g.*, a Thibetan plaintiff and a British defendant. He referred to the Chefoo Convention, where provision had been made for the establishment of a Mixed Court.

Sir L. Dane pointed out that it was true that the Chefoo Convention provided for a Mixed Court at Shanghae, but it also provided for a British Supreme Court at that place. The former, Sir L. Dane asserted, tried cases in which the defendant was Chinese, while the latter heard all cases in which the defendant was British. In these circumstances, he could not agree to less in Thibet than had already been considered necessary in China.

After a lengthy discussion between Chang Ta-jên and his staff as to the functions of Mixed Courts in China, Chang Ta-jên stated that he was willing to concede that the nationality of the defendant should determine the nationality of the Judge hearing any particular case, and that such cases should be heard in a Court-house to be specially constructed and set aside for that purpose. Chang Ta-jên further drew attention to the words "of their employés," against which he set his face.

Sir L. Dane replied that he had considered it advisable to insert these words. Cases of harsh and brutal treatment had fallen to the lot of Thibetan servants of British subjects; some had been tortured to death, others cruelly beaten. Sir L. Dane also instanced the New Dominion, Persia, and Muscat as regions where special protection was afforded to the employés of British subjects. He did not wish to claim for these employés in Thibet that they should be accorded the full rights of British subjects, but he did ask that some measure of protection be afforded so as to insure them against molestation and illegal treatment. It would be sufficient, Sir L. Dane thought, if the British Trade Agent had the power to send a representative to watch the trial at the Thibetan Courts of the Thibetan employés of British subjects.

Clause 6 (c).—Sir L. Dane offered no objection to this section of the clause, but desired that "the high authorities of Thibet at the instance of China" should be substituted for "China."

Clause 7.—This clause gave rise to a great deal of discussion, as Chang Ta-jên maintained that the rights of China over Thibet would be infringed unless the control of the rest-houses remained in the hands of China.

Sir L. Dane proposed that the rest-houses should be sold at cost price to China and Thibet and leased at a fair rent for a term of years to the Indian Government. Respectable Chinese and Thibetans would be permitted under passes from the British Trade Agent to use these houses on the same conditions as British officers. Chang Ta-jên would not agree.

Sir L. Dane then directed attention to Article 3 of the Peking Convention of 1906, under which Great Britain had the right to lay down telegraph lines connecting the trade marts with India. It was only reasonable to assume that the telegraph officers would require accommodation while on inspection duty, which would be afforded by the rest-houses in question, which lay along the line of telegraphs. This inspection duty had been rendered all the more necessary as of late these telegraph lines had been seriously damaged, and he cited numerous instances in which the line had been cut, lengths of the wire stolen, and insulators wilfully broken.

Chang Ta-jên would not consent that the upkeep of the rest-houses should under any circumstances remain in the hands of the Indian Government.

Sir L. Dane proceeded that Article 2 of the Trade Regulations of 1893 read, "At Lang-jo and Tachun, between the frontier and Yatung, where rest-houses have been built by the Thibetan authorities, British subjects can break their journey in consideration of a daily rent." The principle of rest-houses having been admitted, he would remark that the rest-houses at Lang-jo and Tachun had not been kept up so as to render them even fit for habitation. He proposed to remedy this state of things by renting the houses and holding the Indian Government responsible for their upkeep.

Chang Ta-jên contended that the rest-houses at Lang-jo and Tachun had not been kept up because no British traders had been in the habit of using them, but he would see to it that all rest-houses should be properly maintained.

Sir L. Dane did not doubt Chang Ta-jên's sincerity of purpose, but he feared that after Chang Ta-jên's departure matters would revert to the former conditions. He would therefore ask for the control of the management of the rest-houses by the Indian Government. This arrangement was open to revision at the end of ten years. Sir L. Dane also drew attention to the French control of rest-houses in Yunnan along the line of the railway from Tonquin into Yunnan.

After an adjournment for lunch at 1 P.M., the discussion was renewed at 3 P.M.

Clause 8.—Chang Ta-jên commenced the discussion by remarking that the Thibetan Delegate had raised objections to British traders travelling inland from mart to mart, and had held that they were only entitled to travel from India to each mart.

Sir L. Dane instructed Captain O'Connor to question the Thibetan Delegate on this matter, with the result that the Delegate confirmed Chang Ta-jên's statement. Sir L. Dane, whose remarks were interpreted to the Thibetan Delegate by Captain O'Connor, explained that under Article II of the Lhasa Treaty he could claim for all British traders the right to travel by any routes sanctioned by custom or usage. He was now only asking that the right of native Indian traders to visit places and travel by routes sanctioned by custom and usage should be recognized, whether those places were or were not trade marts. The Lhasa Treaty had neither swept away nor curtailed existing commercial rights and privileges of Indian traders, but had confirmed and amplified these rights and privileges conferred by ancient custom and usage. If such rights were not recognized, it might be necessary to ask for fresh marts on the line of the present marts so as to enable direct communication between the present marts.

Chang Ta-jên replied that if Indian traders were allowed to travel freely in the interior of Thibet, *e.g.*, from Gartok to Gyantse, Russia would raise objections and would demand freedom of travel for her subjects also.

Sir L. Dane pointed out that the present Regulations dealt only with trade between India and Thibet. He was unable to discuss here any side issues which Chang Ta-jên contemplated might arise between China and Russia. Chang Ta-jên argued that it would be difficult to protect British traders travelling over the enormous extent of country separating the trade marts of Gartok and Gyantse, and reiterated his fears of complications with Russia.

Sir L. Dane replied that he could not give away rights of Indian subjects extending over centuries. Native Indian traders had visited Shigatse, Lhasa, and other places for purposes of trade and pilgrimage and had travelled by routes sanctioned by custom and usage from Western to Eastern Thibet. He sought only the continuance of these rights and the protection hitherto afforded. He was prepared to waive the rights of other traders from India to travel from Gartok to Gyantse. Sir L. Dane then read out an amended clause to illustrate his remarks.

Clause 9.—Sir L. Dane remarked that this clause introduced a subject new to the Trade Regulations of 1893, but he did not on that account object to its inclusion. While agreeing generally with Chang Ta-jên's desire for an extradition clause, he wished to point out that the question involved grave issues and would be better dealt with separately. The clause seemed to him out of place in these Trade Regulations. He was prepared, however, to facilitate opportunities for discussing the matter, but

would be glad of more detailed proposals from Chang Ta-jên. It would, for instance, be necessary to specify the offences for which extradition could be permitted. He would like also to point out that the present proposition was not really reciprocal on account of the defective police system in Thibet.

Clause 10.—Sir L. Dane presumed that the meaning of this clause was the appointment of Chinese Consuls in India.

Chang Ta-jên assented, and stated that it had been inserted because British Trade Agents were allowed at Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok, and, in reply to an inquiry, said that the men selected to fill these posts might be either Chinese or Thibetans. Their functions would be to inspire confidence in Thibetan traders and to watch the interests of the Indo-Thibetan trade.

Sir L. Dane drew attention to the fact that, while Thibetans were allowed free and unrestricted trade throughout India, British subjects were bound down to three marts and trade even there confined within somewhat narrow limits. The question of a Chinese Consul at Calcutta was not a new one, and he had at present no authority to discuss this question.

Chang Ta-jên rejoined that he was not asking for a Consul at Calcutta, but that he was sure the British Government would make no objection to this request if put forward, as British Consuls were stationed in China. Sir L. Dane called attention to the wording of the clause—"other places, if necessary"; he was aware that Tang Ta-jên in 1904 had put forward the proposal to appoint a Chinese Consul at Calcutta. However, the point now being raised was part of another subject, and he was not prepared to acquiesce in its inclusion in these Regulations, as this would tend indefinitely to protract negotiations. If, however, when the Regulations were complete in other respects, Mr. Chang wished to raise the matter, it would receive his most careful consideration and would be fully reported to his Government. He did not, however, disapprove of paragraph 2 of the clause, as the practice had always prevailed.

Clause 11.—Sir L. Dane had no objection to this clause, but asked that "the officials of the two Powers" should be amended to "authorities concerned."

Clause 12.—Sir L. Dane proposed the omission of "the Police Office," to which Chang Ta-jên had no objection.

Sir L. Dane proposed the omission of the last sentence of this clause. He referred to the existence of bandits, especially in Western Thibet, and gave instances of the custom prevailing in Thibet that losses from robbery were under certain circumstances made good, and referred to the Forrest case on the Yünnan-Thibet border.

Chang Ta-jên objected to the omission of this sentence as meaning to imply that the local authorities would be held responsible for losses by robbery, but agreed to the suggestion that compensation for losses by robbery should be given to British subjects in cases where Thibetan and Chinese subjects would have received such compensation.

Clause 13.—Sir L. Dane inquired whether the Tariff of the Imperial Maritime Customs were applied to Mongolia and the New Dominion. This Tariff, he said, was very suitable in the case of Treaty ports in China which were either equally accessible by water carriage or connected directly with a main trade route leading from a rail-head, but the conditions in Thibet were widely different. The Tariff in Thibet varied according to the routes taken by the trade, and he gave an instance of the Garwhal trade where the dues were actually levied in Indian territory. Thibet was a backward country, and he was of opinion that the question of a fixed and uniform Tariff should be left alone for the present.

Chang Ta-jên said that he would refer for instructions to the Chinese Government.

Sir L. Dane hoped that Chang Ta-jên would also at the same time bring to the notice of his Government the varying nature of trade imposts in Thibet, which were determined by local conditions. In some cases the duties were retained by the local authorities; in others, the Lhasa Government farmed them out. The dues were sometimes in the nature of a poll tax on the traders, and at other times compounded by the payment of a lump sum. There were also other ways and means, to which it would be unnecessary to refer at the moment. He believed that there was no Customs Tariff in Kashgaria against British and Russian imports, and duties were light in Mongolia, countries in which the conditions were somewhat analogous to those of Thibet.

Sir L. Dane then read out clause 9 of our draft. The term "foreign" was not intended, he said, to include China. He had no wish to deprive China and Thibet of trade duties, but the application of a uniform Tariff was in this case a matter of extreme difficulty. It seemed to him that the most practicable method would be to postpone the discussion of a uniform Tariff for five years, during which time both sides would have time and opportunity to collect statistics as to the dues leviable at different points and along different routes.

Sir L. Dane then asked the Thibetan Delegate if he could furnish any information as to the levy of duties in Thibet at the present moment, to which the Delegate replied that he supposed that they remained as before, and that he himself was ignorant in what cases and under what circumstances remittances of these dues were made to Lhasa.

Chang Ta-jên expressed his agreement that no duties should be levied for the present, although he reserved China's right to levy them later. He would like an expression of opinion from Sir L. Dane as to the suitability of the application of the Imperial Maritime Customs Tariff to Thibet.

Sir L. Dane replied that the conditions of trade in Thibet did not make it possible to apply a uniform Tariff. He asked for nothing more than that after the expiration of five years, if found desirable, a Tariff might be enforced at rates not higher or other than those actually levied on any goods imported from or exported to any foreign country, and in accordance with Regulations to be settled hereafter by representatives of the Government of India and of the Thibetan authorities.

Chang Ta-jên stated that he would refer the question of the actual Tariff to be enforced in Thibet to the Chinese, as he himself was uncertain on this point.

Sir L. Dane pointed out the difficulties in the way of introducing the Imperial Maritime Customs Tariff into Thibet. The enormous stretch of land frontier and the varying conditions of trade from the numerous routes leading from India into Thibet would make the establishment of Customs in Thibet one of extraordinary expense and difficulty. He would suggest that the Contracting Parties to these Regulations should prepare lists of goods and values during a period of five years before proceeding to the discussion of a Tariff for Thibet.

Chang Ta-jên pointed out that there would be only two routes into Thibet along which Indo-Thibetan trade could proceed, viz., the route to Gyantse and the route to Gartok.

Sir L. Dane contended that there were more than a score of recognized trade routes from India to Gyantse and Gartok, and he illustrated his contention by indicating on the map the principal routes from the Indian frontier to Gartok. Under Article II of the Lhasa Treaty trade could proceed by existing routes. It might be possible to apply a Customs Tariff to certain routes, while leaving others subject to existing arrangements. He still, therefore, objected to a uniform Tariff on trade between India and Thibet.

Chang Ta-jên thought that the Customs would be able to decide the duties leviable, but that at the present moment the question appeared to be to decide whether the Imperial Maritime Customs Tariff, or the Frontier Tariff, or some other system would be the most suitable.

Clause 14.—Sir L. Dane inquired whether this clause might be taken to mean that Indian tea might be imported into Thibet at the rate of duty prevailing on Chinese tea imported into England. He was aware that Chang Ta-jên was anxious about the welfare of the Yachou brick tea trade, but it seemed to him that the duty was somewhat unfair, considering that large quantities of Chinese tea were passing through India at a 5 per cent. *ad valorem* rate *en route* for Afghanistan and Bokhara.

Chang Ta-jên explained that, were it not that he feared the impoverishment of the country-side between Yachou and Lhasa, he would not view with disfavour the entry of Indian tea into Thibet. Even if the Thibet trade were lost to Yachou, it would be an easy matter to export this tea to other places, *e.g.*, Hankow. There was no objection to the import of Indian tea into China.

Sir L. Dane stated that brick tea for Thibet was comparatively large value in small bulk, and would form a staple for the exchange of borax and wool from Western Thibet, where only a trifling quantity of Chinese tea found its way. He offered as an informal suggestion that the Indian Government should levy a duty on Indian tea destined for Thibet, that this tea should bear a Government mark and travel only by certain specified routes, and that Indian tea not fulfilling these conditions should be considered contraband. The duties so collected would be handed over to China.

Chang Ta-jên replied that the question of the duty was not material. The main point was the apprehended loss of livelihood and consequent destitution of the country-side between Yachou and Lhasa.

Sir L. Dane suggested that, the question of duty being an unimportant point, a geographical limit might be fixed beyond which Indian tea should not pass into Thibet. The only opportunity for the sale of Indian tea would probably be in the extreme west of Thibet, where little or no Chinese tea penetrated.

Chang Ta-jên retorted that, on the contrary, a good deal of Chinese tea, and that

of the best quality, was imported into Western Thibet, and repeated his argument that the introduction of Indian brick tea into Thibet would result in the ruin of the countryside between Yachou and Lhasa.

Sir L. Dane explained that the best Indian tea was exported to England, and that it was only the cheaper kinds that could be exported into Western Thibet. These inferior qualities would not compete with the Chinese tea, which Chang Ta-jên had alleged was the best quality and superior even to that consumed at Lhasa. He quoted from a report by Mr. Cassels to show that the Chinese tea imported into Western Thibet was conveyed thither by means of free transport. If Chang Ta-jên's proposed reform in the removal of this abuse should result in fair payments for the use of the pack animals belonging to the inhabitants, it seemed clear that the present extortionate prices for Chinese tea in Western Thibet would become prohibitive on account of the very heavy expenses incurred in conveying this tea from Lhasa. Tea was an indispensable article in the dietary of a Thibetan. He would suggest, therefore, that the introduction of Indian tea into Thibet should be given a trial, at any rate for a period.

Clause 15.—Sir L. Dane was not inclined to substitute this clause for Article 3 of the Trade Regulations of 1893. Salt was admitted into India duty free and exchanged for grain. Without this trade the Thibetans of Western Thibet would undoubtedly starve, so that he did not see the particular necessity of including salt. As it stood, the clause would practically stop all trade, as neither side could carry money with which to purchase goods. He also did not understand why trade in tobacco was now prohibited. He did not object to the export from Thibet of grains, as none practically was exported, but if the export of grain from India was stopped the people in Western Thibet would starve or have to emigrate *en masse*. He proposed to adhere to the wording of the 1893 Regulations, &c.

Clause 16.—Sir L. Dane took exception to this clause as casting a reflection upon the good faith of the British Government. As soon as evacuation of the Chumbi Valley should have taken place, the rights and privileges of local administration in connection therewith would necessarily cease. He could not agree to Chang Ta-jên's request that the escorts for the Trade Agents should be withdrawn at the same time, as these escorts were necessary until such time as a feeling of security should prevail in Thibet.

Clause 17.—Sir L. Dane quoted Article 2 of the Trade Regulations of 1893—"British subjects . . . restriction"—and proposed the following as an amendment (clause 11 of our draft).

Chang Ta-jên objected to the settlement of rates, as in that case it might happen that Thibetans with an inadequate supply for their own needs would be compelled to sell their stock.

Sir L. Dane pointed out that the settlement of rates prevailed along the Indian frontiers. In populous centres, with bazaars and markets, supplies could easily be purchased by mutual agreement, but in sparsely populated mountainous districts it had been found necessary that the local authorities should fix rates so as to prevent quarrels between travellers and inhabitants as to prices. No compulsory sale was contemplated, but if the traveller wished to purchase and the owner was willing to sell, the price was fixed beyond dispute. Captain O'Connor had arranged rates with the Gyantse Jongpen for the Gyantse route, and these rates had been readily accepted by the inhabitants. There would be no objection to the readjustment of rates from time to time. The difficulty of purchasing supplies where no rates had been fixed must be patent to Chang Ta-jên, for the present Amban, in his recent journey to Lhasa, had been delayed seven months at Tachienlu because no supplies had been forthcoming.

Clause 18.—Mr. Chang stated that he specially desired the retention of this clause.

Sir L. Dane declared that his own view had at first been that the present Regulations should take the place of the Trade Regulations of 1893, but that he was quite prepared to meet Chang Ta-jên's views that these latter should remain in full force subject to the terms of the present Regulations.

Clause 19.—Sir L. Dane thought this clause premature, and that the matter could be more satisfactorily arranged by the respective Trade Agents in consultation, but he had no objection to its inclusion, provided that the storage "in bulk" only were contemplated.

Chang Ta-jên assented.

Clause 20.—Sir L. Dane said that he would deal with ratification in discussing clause 22. With this reservation, he had no objections to offer.

Clause 21.—Sir L. Dane expressed his wish that the words "Thibetan text" should appear in this clause. The text of the Lhasa Treaty was in Thibetan and English, and these present Regulations were being negotiated under Article III of that Treaty.

At this point the Thibetan Delegate informed Captain O'Connor that the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1893 signed at Darjeeling had no Thibetan text, and that a text in the Indian language (*e.g.*, Hindustani) might be with equal reason demanded on this occasion.

In special reference to the Delegate's remark, Sir L. Dane pointed out that the neglect to provide a Thibetan text duly signed and sealed had contributed to the repudiation by the Thibetans of those Regulations, and given rise to great troubles. There was no one Indian language, but several, and Urdu, which was derived from the camp language of the Ordos Mongols, was not generally understood by Indian subjects trading in Thibet.

The Delegate offered to make a separate authoritative copy if the Thibetan text were not mentioned in the present Regulations.

Chang Ta-jên positively declared that he would never agree to the addition of "Thibetan text."

Clause 22.—Sir L. Dane considered that a preamble to and a ratification of these Regulations were unnecessary. The meaning of the latter was to provide for the correction of any doubtful points in a Treaty or Convention. As Chang Ta-jên had, however, proposed both preamble and ratification, he would refer the question to the British Government. He must tell Chang Ta-jên that he was of opinion that if ratification took place it might have to take place also at Lhasa as at Peking. In reply to Chang Ta-jên's emphatic rejection of ratification at Lhasa, Sir L. Dane pointed out that the omission of preamble and ratification would eliminate Chinese opposition to "Thibet Government" and "ratification at Lhasa."

Chang Ta-jên asserted that as he and Sir L. Dane were Plenipotentiaries, ratification was required in accordance with international custom.

Sir L. Dane remarked that the British Government had at first regarded these negotiations in the light of drafting Trade Regulations for Thibet, and had not even provided him with a Royal Commission until they had learnt of Chang Ta-jên's credentials conferring full powers. He would refer the point to his Government.

Sir L. Dane agreed to send Chang Ta-jên a draft of Trade Regulations embodying his own views on the 31st October. An interview could then be arranged to take place for the discussion of points at issue between the two drafts.

Chang Ta-jên stated that the Chinese Government had instructed him to negotiate at Simla, and he expressed his disappointment that Sir L. Dane was not prepared to sign the draft Regulations, as the points outstanding at issue were not of vital importance.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

October 27, 1907.

Sir Louis Dane received an informal visit from Mr. Chang on Sunday, the 3rd November, at 1.15 P.M. Mr. Chang came for the purpose of saying good-bye before leaving for Calcutta.

No business matters were discussed, but Mr. Chang said that he hoped to have the pleasure of meeting Sir L. Dane at an early date in Calcutta. The visit ended at 1.45 P.M.

(Signed) R. E. HOLLAND.

November 4, 1907.

Inclosure 7 in No. 118.

Draft Thibet Trade Regulations.

Preamble.—Whereas it was provided in Article I of the Convention concluded between the British Government and that of China on the 27th April, 1906 (that is, the 4th day of the 4th moon of the 32nd year of Kuang Hsü), that such steps should at all

times be taken as might be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified in the Lhasa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, between Great Britain and Thibet, which forms an Annex to the above-mentioned Convention ;

And whereas it was stipulated in Article III of the said Lhasa Convention that the question of the amendment of the Thibet Trade Regulations, which were signed by the British and Chinese Commissioners on the 5th day of December, 1893, should be reserved for separate consideration, and whereas the amendment of these Regulations is now necessary ; His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of the Chinese Empire have for this purpose named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India—Sir L. Dane, K.C.I.E., &c. ;

His Majesty the Emperor of the Chinese Empire—His Majesty's Special Commissioner Chang Yin Tang ;

And the high authorities of Thibet have named as their fully authorized Representative—The Tsarong Shape, Wang-Chuk Gyalpo ; who, having compared their respective full powers, which are found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following amended Regulations :—

1. The Trade Regulations of 1893 shall remain in force in so far as they are not inconsistent with these Regulations.

2. As difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable houses and godowns at some of the marts, it is agreed that British subjects may also lease lands for building purposes at the marts, the sites to be settled in each case by the Thibetan authorities in consultation with the British Trade Agent from time to time as may be necessary. Such building sites shall as far as possible be kept together in one locality. British subjects desiring to lease building sites shall apply through the British Trade Agent to the local authorities. In the event of a disagreement between the owner and lessee as to the amount of rent, or the period or conditions of the lease, the case will be settled by the local authorities in consultation with the British Trade Agent.

Special and fitting sites shall be leased for the construction of residences for the British Trade Agents, and also for telegraph offices at the marts.

3. The administration of the trade marts shall as heretofore remain with the local authorities, but the British Trade Agents shall be free to communicate directly with the local authorities and people either by letter or by personal conference.

The officers appointed as Trade Agents under Article V of the Lhasa Convention shall be of suitable rank.

The British Trade Agents and Frontier Officers shall hold intercourse and correspondence with these Trade Agents and local authorities at the marts on terms of respect and friendly treatment.

Questions which cannot be decided by agreement between the Trade Agents and the local authorities shall be referred for settlement to the Government of India and Thibetan high authorities at Lhasa.

4. Efficient protection shall be afforded at all times in Thibet to the persons and property of British subjects and their establishments, and no restrictions whatever shall be placed on the employment by British subjects of Thibetan subjects in any lawful capacity, and the persons so employed shall not be subjected to any kind of molestation or disabilities whatsoever.

Persons proceeding to the trade marts from the frontier of India must adhere to the trade routes, and must not without permission proceed beyond the trade marts, but Indian traders who have already by usage or agreement enjoyed the privilege of trading in Thibet at places other than the trade marts shall, in accordance with Article II of the Lhasa Convention, 1904, be at liberty to continue their trade in accordance with existing practice.

Thibetan subjects trading, travelling, or residing in India shall receive equal advantages to those accorded by this Regulation to British subjects in Thibet.

5. In the event of disputes arising in Thibet between British subjects and Thibetan subjects, they shall be inquired into and settled in personal conference between the British Trade Agent at the nearest mart and the Thibetan authorities, the object of personal conference being to ascertain facts and to do justice. Where there is a divergence of views, the law of the country to which the defendant belongs shall guide.

All questions in regard to rights, whether of property or person, arising between British subjects shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the British authorities.

Thibetan subjects who may be guilty of any criminal act towards British subjects or their employes shall be arrested and punished by the Thibetan authorities according to the laws of Thibet.

British subjects who may commit any crime in Thibet shall be tried and punished by the British Trade Agent at the trade mart nearest to the scene of offence, according to the laws of India.

Justice shall be equitably and impartially administered on both sides.

When the complainant is of Thibetan nationality, the Thibetan authorities shall have the right to send a representative to watch the course of the trial in the British Trade Agent's Court.

Similarly in cases in which a British subject brings a criminal complaint against a person of Thibetan nationality in a Thibetan Court, the British Trade Agent shall have the right to send a representative to watch the course of the trial in the Thibetan Court.

6. The Thibetan high authorities having expressed a strong desire to reform the judicial system of Thibet, and to bring it into accord with that of Western nations, Great Britain agrees to relinquish her extra-territorial rights if and when such rights are relinquished in China, and when she is satisfied that the state of the Thibetan laws and the arrangement for their administration and other considerations warrant her in so doing.

7. Suitable sites shall be leased for the construction of rest-houses at all stages where such rest-houses appear to be required for the inspection and maintenance of the telegraph lines leading to the marts under Article III of the Peking Convention; the sites for these rest-houses and the rent of such sites shall be fixed by the Thibetan authorities in consultation with the British Trade Agent.

The Government of India shall be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of those rest-houses which the Government of India has already constructed upon the route leading from the frontier of India to the trade mart at Gyantse which are required for the maintenance of the telegraph line on that route.

8. In lawsuits involving cases of debt on account of loans, commercial failure, and bankruptcy, the authorities concerned shall grant a hearing, and take necessary steps to enforce payment; but, if the debtor plead poverty and be without means, the authorities concerned shall not be held responsible for the said debts, nor shall any public or official property be distrained upon in order to satisfy these debts.

9. In cases where officials or merchants, *en route* to and from India or Thibet, are robbed of treasure or merchandize, public or private, they shall forthwith report to the local authorities, who shall investigate the circumstances without delay, and take immediate measures to arrest the robbers and bring them to instant trial, and also to recover and restore the stolen property.

10. As trade in Thibet is still only in its infancy, all goods other than goods of the descriptions enumerated in Regulation 3 of the Trade Regulations of 1893 entering Thibet from India or passing out of Thibet into India across the Indo-Thibetan frontier shall be exempt from duty for a period of five years, commencing from the date on which these Regulations come into force. After the expiration of this term, if found desirable in the case of any route or routes, a Tariff may be enforced at rates not higher than those actually levied on any goods imported from or exported to any other foreign country, and in accordance with Regulations to be settled hereafter by Representatives of the Government of India and of the Thibetan authorities.

11. The export from Thibet of rice, wheat, and other grain is prohibited. Trade in the articles mentioned in Regulation 3 of the Trade Regulations of 1893 may also be prohibited by either India or Thibet at any time on three months' notice being given. Indian tea shall not be imported into Thibet save on payment of a duty not exceeding that levied on China tea imported into India. Violation of this Regulation shall render the offender liable to confiscation of the prohibited articles and a heavy fine.

12. British subjects shall be at liberty to deal in kind or in money, or to sell their goods to whomsoever they please, to purchase native commodities from whomsoever they please, to hire transport of any kind, and, in general, to conduct their business transactions in conformity with local usage and without any vexatious restrictions. Rates for local supplies and transport required by British subjects shall be settled from time to time as may be necessary by the Thibetan authorities in direct consultation with the British Trade Agent.

13. The British Trade Agents at the various trade marts now or hereafter to be established in Thibet may make suitable arrangements for the carriage and transmission of their posts to and from the frontier of India. The couriers employed in conveying

these posts shall receive all possible assistance from the local authorities whose districts they traverse, and shall be accorded the same protection as the persons employed in carrying the despatches of the Thibetan authorities.

14. For public safety, no kerosene oil, gunpowder, or any other combustible or dangerous articles are permitted to be kept in bulk within the marts. Tanks or stores for kerosene oil, if any, must be stored far away from the marts and the inhabited places.

British or Indian merchants wishing to build tanks or stores for kerosene oil may not do so until, as provided in Regulation 2, they have made application for a suitable site.

15. These Regulations shall be in force for a period of ten years, reckoned from the date of signature by the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers concerned; but if no demand for revision be made on either side within six months after the end of the first ten years, then the Regulations shall remain in force for another ten years from the end of the first ten years; and so it shall be at the end of each successive ten years.

16. The English, Chinese, and Thibetan texts of the present Regulations have been carefully compared, and, in the event of any question arising as to the interpretation of these Regulations, the sense as expressed in the English text shall be held to be the correct sense.

Inclosure 8 in No. 118.

Sir L. Dane to the Tsarong Shape.

Dear Sir,

Foreign Office, Simla, October 31, 1907.

WITH reference to our conversations of last week, I have the honour to forward herewith, as a means of reconciling our views, and without prejudice to my original position as explained at our meetings in the event of our suggested compromise falling through, a draft of Trade Regulations, in which I have followed the form of that put forward by yourself and Chang Ta-jên, and have indicated how far, on my present instructions, I am able to meet your wishes.

I desire, however, to note that the preamble in my draft and Regulation 6, relating to the possible surrender of extra-territorial rights, and the portion of Regulation 2 relating to the immediate levy of a duty on tea, are at present entered tentatively with reference to your views. As regards these three points, and also as regards the question of ratification, which I have for the present omitted from the draft, I must await final instructions from my Government.

You will observe that I have also omitted from my draft, for the present, all reference to the questions of extradition and of the appointment of Chinese Trade Agents enjoying Consular privileges and immunities in India, which are referred to in Regulations 9 and 10 of Chang Ta-jên's draft. It appears to me that these points could best be dealt with by separate reference after we have arrived at an agreement as to matters affecting trade in Thibet.

I regret that there are certain points with regard to which I am unable wholly to adopt the suggestions made in Chang Ta-jên's draft, but I trust that the explanation which I have already given to you verbally on these subjects has made my position clear.

I understand that you and Chang Ta-jên are animated, as I am, by a sincere desire to bring these negotiations to an early and satisfactory conclusion, and as my draft is based on yours and on the terms of existing Conventions and Regulations, I hope we shall be able to arrive at an agreement at our next meeting. It will then give me much pleasure to join with you and Chang Ta-jên in signing the Regulations.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) L. W. DANE.

Inclosure 9 in No. 118.

Chang Ta-jên to Sir L. Dane.

"The Bower," Mashobra, November 2, 1907.

I BEG to inform you that I am to leave here for Calcutta on the 5th day of November.

As our negotiations, a satisfactory understanding of which, I am sorry to say,

has not been so long arrived at, necessitate that we should continue our labour at Calcutta, I trust that you will be good enough to arrange for our next meeting at Calcutta at your earliest convenience.

I shall come in to take leave of you on Sunday next at about 2.30 p.m., if that would suit you.

Inclosure 10 in No. 118.

Chang Ta-jén to Sir L. Dane.

"The Bower," Mashobra, November 2, 1907.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated Simla, the 31st October, with which you forwarded a draft Thibetan Trade Regulation, which was handed to Mr. Leotenhy by Mr. Wilton.

Your letter and draft Regulations shall receive my earnest consideration, and a further communication in reply will be made in due course.

Inclosure 11 in No. 118.

Sir L. Dane to Chang Ta-jén.

Simla, November 2, 1907.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated the 2nd November.

I note that you contemplate leaving Simla on the 5th November, and that, in consequence, you desire that our next meeting should be held in Calcutta.

I regret that it has not been possible to conclude the matter in Simla, but in the circumstances I agree to the adjournment of the negotiations to Calcutta, as proposed by you. On receipt of the further communications which you intend sending me in due course regarding my draft Regulations, I will address you again on the subject of a convenient date for our next meeting in Calcutta.

Inclosure 12 in No. 118.

Sir L. Dane to the Tsarong Shape.

Simla, November 2, 1907.

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Chang in which he informs me that he contemplates leaving Simla on the 5th November, and that he desires, in consequence, that our next meeting should be held in Calcutta. I have replied agreeing to the adjournment of the negotiations as proposed by Mr. Chang, and I trust that this arrangement suits your convenience.

[40804]

No. 119.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Deputy Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 7th November, relative to the action of the Chinese in Eastern Thibet.

India Office, December 12, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Government of India to India Office.

Simla, November 7, 1907.

PLEASE refer to his Excellency the Viceroy's telegram of the 16th December, 1906, and our despatch dated the 13th June, 1907, relating to the action of the Chinese in Eastern Thibet.

Since then we have received reports which supply strong evidence of the fact that the Chinese are ambitious of making Thibet into a Chinese province, and that they are pushing forward their frontier, and I am now desired to send you a summary of these reports.

In a letter dated the 12th June, 1907, to the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Nepalese Envoy in charge of the Mission to Peking stated that the Chief Chinese Military Officer in Eastern Thibet, whom he had met at Litang, possessed 2,500 men under his command of whom 350 were in Litang. The Chinese officer mentioned to the Envoy that he was proceeding to Lhassa, and that he would start with his troops as soon as matters had been satisfactorily settled in Batang and Litang. The Nepalese officer also reported that it was said that the troops would proceed via Draya and Chiamdo, and that, after bringing these places under Chinese control, they would advance further down to Lhassa.

Next, in a report dated the 2nd September, the Nepalese Representative at Lhassa stated that the Lhassa authorities had received information that Chinese troops had advanced as far as Sanga-chu Jong in the Kham district, giving out that the range of hills known as Syajhoula in Kham had been declared to be the boundary between China and Thibet, and demanding that the Thibetan authorities of the place should supply them with provisions, and should in future acknowledge and obey the authority of China. These Chinese troops are apparently the same as those referred to in the Nepalese Envoy's report.

Captain O'Connor also received a letter last month from a Thibetan correspondent containing information to the effect that Chinese troops had overrun several districts in Eastern Thibet and were looting and damaging "the country, villages, and monasteries." The districts named by him are in Thibet proper, and not in the area claimed by the Chinese as under their jurisdiction. Captain O'Connor's correspondent is a well-informed gentleman, who generally succeeds in getting reliable news, and it will be seen that his information tallies with the reports by the Nepalese officers referred to above.

As mentioned in my letter to you of the 1st August, it is to the interest of China to reduce the area of Thibet as much as possible, and this they appear to be doing rather rapidly, although the Wai-wu Pu recently stated* that no change had been made in the limits of Thibet and that the old limits should be regarded as authoritative.

[40844]

No. 120.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 12th December, relative to the question of the return of the Dalai Lama to Thibet.

India Office, December 13, 1907.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 12, 1907.

THIBET. Return of Dalai Lama. Your telegram of 15th ultimo.

Chamberlain whom Tashi Lama has deputed to Peking to remonstrate against the high-handed treatment which Dalai Lama, before he left Thibet, accorded to Tashi Lhumpo, has arrived at Calcutta. Tashi Lama's Chamberlain, at an interview with Captain O'Connor, informed him that feeling of Lhassa as to Dalai Lama's return was divided. In the informant's opinion the more influential party, including Tirimpoche, is hostile to it. He attributes this to their fear of the renewed political complications which might arise owing to Dalai Lama's well-known overbearing disposition. In the event of the Dalai Lama's return to Thibet being permitted, Tashi Lama, and his

* See No. 84.

adherents in particular, anticipate trouble for themselves. Tashi Lama's Chamberlain is desirous that his interview with Captain O'Connor, and his mission to Peking, should be treated as strictly confidential.

Having regard to the fact that our relations with Thibetans have been replaced on a very friendly footing, we should be glad, if possible, to maintain present position of affairs. But if return of Dalai Lama is insisted on by China, and Russia does not oppose, we would not seriously protest.

Chinese Government might, however, be reminded of Lama's headstrong proceedings in the past, and we might obtain a pledge, for what it is worth, that there would be no interference on his part with the Tashi Lama or officials concerned in the negotiations, and that he would give us his loyal co-operation in carrying out the new trade arrangements. His return may possibly not be without advantage in giving to the Lhasa Government more (courage?) to resist encroachments of Chinese. While Lama is in Peking, Sir J. Jordan may be able to ascertain his attitude. A report that Chang Ta-jên is to go to Lhasa as Amban has reached us from Chinese sources. His stay in Thibet synchronized with Thibetan authorities' unfriendly attitude, nor has there been anything in his subsequent behaviour to lead us to hope for more friendly attitude on his part in the future. We trust, therefore, that his mission to Lhasa may be prevented.

[40698]

No. 121.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 514.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 14, 1907.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 470 of the 28th September last reporting the steps taken by you to communicate to the Chinese Government the terms of the recent Anglo-Russian Convention as to Thibet, and inclosing the text of a note which it was proposed to address to them, inviting them to do what lay in their power to prohibit the entry of scientific missions into Thibet for a period of three years.

I approve your action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[42042]

No. 122.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 23.)

Sir,

India Office, December 20, 1907.

WITH reference to your letter of the 28th November last, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of telegraphic correspondence with the Government of India as to the preamble for the Thibet Trade Regulations proposed by the Chinese Government.

Mr. Morley is of opinion that, in the circumstances, it is desirable to continue the negotiations on the basis of the modifications suggested by the Government of India in the Chinese preamble, following the lines indicated in Sir J. Jordan's telegram No. 203 of the 25th November, and not on the basis of the draft originally proposed by the Government of India. It does not appear that our position in respect of the clauses to be inserted in the Regulations as to tea and marts, to which the Government of India call attention, will be weakened by the adoption of this course.

Mr. Morley would therefore propose that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should be instructed, subject to any criticisms he may have to make, to approach the Chinese Government with a view to securing the modifications of their preamble suggested by the Government of India.

Mr. Morley is disposed, on the information before him, to agree with the views of the Government of India as to the omission from the Agreement of any stipulation for ratification at Peking and London. It might be left to Sir J. Jordan to mention the point to the Wai-wu Pu if he thinks it expedient, and also that of the signature of the Thibetan text by the three Commissioners.

For convenience of reference, copies of the two preambles written side by side are inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 17, 1907.

THIBET Trade Regulations. Your telegram of 29th ultimo.

Draft proposed by Wai-wu Pu makes it appear that Article I of the Peking Convention alone governs the conduct of negotiations. They are based also, however, on Article III of the Lhasa Convention, as will be seen by reference to Sir J. Jordan's letter to Wai-wu Pu dated 13th June last, and the terms of Dane's credentials. It is only as a concession that China has been permitted by His Majesty's Government to participate in negotiations. See despatch from Sir J. Jordan of 19th September last, No. 334. It seems, therefore, of importance that explicit reference should be made to the Lhasa Convention in the terms made use of in our preamble. In Chang Ta-jên's original draft such reference actually appears. Secondly, draft proposed by Wai-wu Pu makes it appear that it is stipulated in Article I of the Peking Convention that the Lhasa Convention should be attached to the Peking Convention as an Annex. This is not so. Article I, while it confirms and provides for the due fulfilment of the Lhasa Convention, merely refers to the fact that it is stated in the text that the Convention was attached as an Annex. Our draft seems preferable, but if His Majesty's Government are desirous to meet the views of Chinese Government on this point, while insisting on the substance of the Regulations, especially in the matter of marts and tea, we submit for your approval the following draft preamble, revised with reference to above considerations, but retaining as much of Wai-wu Pu's wording as possible:—

“Whereas by Article I of the Convention between Great Britain and China of the 27th April it was provided that both the High Contracting Parties should engage to take at all times such steps as might be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified in the Lhasa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, the texts of which in English and Chinese were attached as an Annex to the above-mentioned Convention; and whereas it was stipulated in Article III” [then follows text of our draft from beginning of second paragraph down to word “Chang Yin Tang”] “and the high authorities of Thibet having named as their fully authorized representative to act under direction of Chang Ta-jên and take part in negotiations, the Tsarong Shape, Wangchuk Gyalpo. And whereas Dane and Chang Ta-jên have communicated to each other since their respective full powers, and have found them to be in good faith and true form, and have found the authorization of the Thibetan Delegate to be also in good faith and true form, the following amended Regulations have been agreed upon.”

We concur in Sir J. Jordan's view as to its being essential to insist that the Regulations shall be signed by the Shape. We also think that the Thibetan text should be signed by three Commissioners, and we would suggest that opportunity might be taken to insist upon this. We would also express hope that, as has been done in the wording of the draft Regulations, the primary obligation of Thibet to carry out the Lhasa Convention will be marked. If the revised preamble and requirements stated above are accepted by the Chinese Government, necessity to demand a reference in the preamble to the fact that the Convention confirms the Lhasa Convention may not arise. We would suggest that, if possible, requiring ratification at Peking and in London should be omitted. Ratification by the Thibetan Government at Lhasa could hardly be secured, and Chinese claim to sovereignty over Thibet, which we desire to resist, would be strengthened if Chinese Government alone ratify. Although the British and Chinese Commissioners have received Royal Commissions, the present Regulations are of the same character as those of 1893, which were not ratified. We believe that previous Agreements in which Thibet is directly concerned, *e.g.*, the Lhasa Convention 1904, and the Treaties with Nepal and Kashmir, have not been specially ratified, and there are many instances of Treaties with Asiatic countries affecting India which are not ratified in London.

(Repeated to Peking.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

Preambles.

*Revised Draft proposed in Viceroy's Telegram
of December 17, 1907.*

WHEREAS by Article I of the Convention between Great Britain and China of the 27th April it was provided that both the High Contracting Parties should engage to take at all times such steps as might be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified in the Lhasa Convention of the 7th September, 1904, the texts of which, in English and Chinese, were attached as an Annex to the above-mentioned Convention;

And whereas it was stipulated in Article III of the said Lhasa Convention that the question of the amendment of the Thibet Trade Regulations, which were signed by the British and Chinese Commissioners on the 5th day of December, 1893, should be reserved for separate consideration;

And whereas the amendment of these Regulations is now necessary;

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of the Chinese Empire, have for this purpose named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, Sir L. Dane, K.C.I.E., &c.;

His Majesty the Emperor of the Chinese Empire, His Majesty's Special Commissioner Chang Yin Tang;

And the high authorities of Thibet having named as their fully authorized Representative to act under direction of Chang Ta-jên and take part in the negotiations, the Tsarong Shape, Wangchuk Gyalpo;

And whereas Dane and Chang Ta-jên have communicated to each other since their respective full powers, and have found them to be in good faith and true form, and have found the authorization of the Thibetan Delegate to be also in good faith and true form, the following amended Regulations have been agreed upon.

*Draft proposed by Wai-wu Pu as in Sir J.
Jordan's Telegram of November 25, 1907.*

WHEREAS it was stipulated by Article I of Convention between China and Great Britain of the 27th April, 1906, that the Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, between Great Britain and Thibet should be attached thereto as an Annex, and that both the High Contracting Parties should engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure due fulfilment of terms specified therein;

And whereas China and Great Britain are now desirous of taking steps to secure due fulfilment of terms aforesaid by the negotiation of Thibetan Trade Regulations;

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China [something omitted; *Qy.*: "and His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India"] have for this purpose named [two groups undecypherable; *Qy.*: "as their Plenipotentiaries"]:

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, Chang Yin Tang; and

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperor of India, Sir Louis Dane;

And whereas by Article III of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904, Thibet undertook to appoint fully authorized Representatives, the high authorities of Thibet have appointed

as their fully authorized Representative to act under the direction of Chang Ta-jên and take part in negotiations;

And whereas Chang Ta-jên and Sir Louis Dane have communicated to each other their respective full powers, and have found them to be in good and true form, and have found the authorization of the Thibetan Delegate to be also in good and true form, the following amended Regulations have been agreed upon.

[42057]

No. 123.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 218.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, December 23, 1907.

MOVEMENTS of Dalai Lama.

Please see your telegram No. 138 of the 17th instant and telegram of the 12th instant from Government of India to Secretary of State.

According to information received by my Russian colleague, Dalai Lama had not, up to the 1st ultimo, left Hsi Ning, and I was recently told by a Minister of the Wai-wu Pu that it was still uncertain whether he would come to Peking. I am of opinion that the matter may rest where it now stands (see my telegram No. 252 of the 29th December, 1906) until some movement takes place.

I fear that return of Dalai Lama to Lhasa would hardly be advantageous to our interests, especially if his visit to Peking takes place, in which case the influence of the Court and Government here will have some effect on him.

As regards the report of Chang's going to Lhasa, I am inclined to doubt its likelihood. If such a move is really intended, we should, I think, probably only be courting antagonism of China if we attempted to prevent it, and should not do any good. The Chinese are nowadays very sensitive with regard to such matters.

I have repeated this to the Government of India.

[42123]

No. 124.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 220.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, December 24, 1907.

THIBET.

Wai-wu Pu have addressed a note to me, dated yesterday, in which Article VII of the Lhasa Convention from the words "the British Government" to "later" and the provision in the Declaration appended thereto from "the British occupation" to "said indemnity" are quoted.

Our subsequent Declaration that the 1st January, 1905, was to be regarded as the date of the effective opening of the trade marts is recalled, and the Board add that the third instalment of the indemnity falls due on the 1st January, 1908.

They state that they have made arrangements for its payment through the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank on that date.

The Chinese Government therefore request that, as the indemnity will have been paid in full and the stipulated period of the effective opening of the trade marts will have expired on the 1st January, 1908, thereby fulfilling the Treaty provision of "three years, whichever date may be later," His Majesty's Government may withdraw on the above date the British troops in temporary occupation of the Chumbi Valley.

They beg that His Majesty's Government may be informed of their request by telegraph.

I have repeated this to the Government of India.

[42042]

No. 125.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 145.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, December 27, 1907.

THIBET. Your telegram No. 203 of the 25th ultimo, and the Government of India telegram of the 17th instant, which was repeated to you.

You should, subject to any criticisms you may have to make, approach the Chinese Government with a view to securing the modifications suggested by the Indian Government of the Chinese Preamble to the draft Trade Regulations.

As regards the expediency of omitting any stipulation for ratification at Peking and London, and also the question of the signature of the Thibetan text by the three Commissioners, I leave it to your discretion whether or not to mention these points to the Wai-wu Pu.

[42355]

No. 126.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 534.)

Sir,

Peking, November 13, 1907.

THE telegrams of the Government of India to the Secretary of State of the 9th and 22nd ultimo regarding the attitude taken up by Chang Ta-jên in his negotiations with Sir Louis Dane were repeated to me on the 26th and 31st ultimo, and I made representations on the points raised in a Memorandum to the Wai-wu Pu, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

The points at issue were that Chang Ta-jên sought to suppress all mention of the Lhasa Treaty in his draft of the Trade Regulations on the ground that this Treaty had been "rectified" by the Peking Treaty of the following year, and he contended further that the Thibetan Delegate was appointed by the Chinese Emperor, and not by Thibet.

In their reply, translation of which is also inclosed, the Wai-wu Pu argued that, since Article I of the Peking Treaty stipulated for steps to be taken by the High Contracting Parties, whenever necessary, to secure the fulfilment of the Lhasa Convention, it was evident that matters lay solely between Great Britain and China, and Thibet had no further voice in them.

As reported in my telegram No. 195 of the 12th instant, I induced the Board, in my interview of that date, to reconsider the question, and to furnish me with a supplementary reply. Considerable reluctance was shown in regard to the necessity of the Thibetan Delegate signing the Trade Regulations, but I reminded the Ministers, two of whom are new to the subject, that this point had been definitely provided for in Memoranda exchanged during the past summer. I also quoted as an analogy the case of Canada making a Commercial Treaty direct with France, and contended that if Great Britain could enter as a signatory into such an arrangement China had no need to be over-sensitive in allowing Thibet to sign Trade Regulations, especially as His Majesty's Government had no objection to describe the Thibetan Delegate as assisting or acting under the direction of Chang Ta-jên. I now await the Board's further reply.

A copy of this despatch is being sent to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 126.

Memorandum communicated by Sir J. Jordan to the Wai-wu Pu.

WITH reference to the negotiations now proceeding at Simla between Sir Louis Dane, Chang Ta-jên, and the Thibetan Delegate, it appears, from telegrams recently received, that Chang Ta-jên is not willing to admit that the Thibetan Delegate is appointed by Thibet, and claims that the negotiations lie between the British and Chinese Governments, Thibet having no voice in the matter except through China. Chang Ta-jên also wishes to strike out from the draft Regulations drawn up by himself all mention of the Convention between India and Thibet of 1904, on the ground that this Treaty had been "rectified" by the Peking Convention of 1906.

It will be recalled by the Board that Article III of the Convention of 1904 provides for the amendment of the Regulations of 1893, and for the appointment by Thibet of fully authorized Delegates to negotiate with Representatives of the British Government.

This Convention was confirmed by Article I of the Peking Convention of 1906, and, although this Article modified the Declaration regarding indemnity, it did not modify the original Convention in other respects, and, in fact, it stipulated explicitly that both the High Contracting Parties would at all times take such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms of the 1904 Convention.

Chang Ta-jên appears therefore to be under some misapprehension as to the continuance in force of the 1904 Convention, and Sir John Jordan is instructed by His Majesty's Government to request that he may be directed to recognize its binding force in his negotiation of revised Trade Regulations as provided by Article III of that Treaty. It is further essential, under the terms of that Treaty, that the Thibetan

Delegate should be recognized as being appointed by the high authorities of Thibet, and it is requested that Chang Ta-jên may be instructed to make no difficulties on this point, which is so plainly provided for in Article III of the Convention.

British Legation, Peking, November 4, 1907.

Inclosure 2 in No. 126.

Memorandum communicated by the Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

THE Board had the honour to receive Sir John Jordan's Memorandum of the 4th instant on the subject of the negotiations now proceeding at Simla between Sir Louis Dane, Chang Ta-jên, and the Thibetan Delegate for the revision of Trade Regulations.

The Memorandum states that Chang Ta-jên was not willing to admit that the Thibetan Delegate was appointed by Thibet, and claimed that the negotiations lay between the British and Chinese Governments, Thibet having no voice in the matter except through China. Chang Ta-jên also wished to strike out from the draft Regulations drawn up by himself all mention of the Convention between India and Thibet of 1904.

It was claimed that Article III of the 1904 Convention had been confirmed by Article I of the Peking Convention of 1906, which Article stipulated explicitly that both the High Contracting Parties would at all times take such steps as might be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms of the 1904 Convention.

Chang Ta-jên appeared therefore to be under some misapprehension, and it was requested that he might be directed to recognize the binding force of the 1904 Convention in his negotiations of revised Trade Regulations, as provided by Article III of that Treaty.

The Board have the honour to observe that, although Article III of the 1904 Convention between Great Britain and Thibet provided for the amendment of the Treaty between China and Great Britain (1893 Regulations (?) translator) by a separate negotiation to be carried on jointly between a Thibetan Delegate and the Representatives of Great Britain, yet subsequently thereto, in 1906, a further Convention relating to Thibet was negotiated between the Plenipotentiaries of China and Great Britain, by Article I of which it was clearly laid down "that both the High Contracting Parties would at all times take such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms of the 1904 Convention."

The effect of this clause is that, although China has never failed to recognize the binding force of the Anglo-Thibetan Convention, yet the express stipulation of Article I of the Convention between China and Great Britain that both High Contracting Parties would at all times take steps, &c., obviously points to the Chinese and British Governments as the High Contracting Parties concerned. As a consequence, when occasion arises for "steps to be taken" under any clause in the Convention between Great Britain and Thibet, it is understood that such steps are to be taken by the Governments of Great Britain and China.

Chang Ta-jên's claim that Thibet has no voice except through China is therefore quite in accordance with Article I of the 1906 Convention, and he is under no misapprehension at all on the point.

The Board earnestly hope therefore that the British Minister will convey to Sir Louis Dane their request that he will see his way to carrying on the negotiations in a friendly spirit, in accordance with the terms of Article I of the amended Convention of 1906.

November 10, 1907.

Further Correspondence Respecting the Affairs of Thibet Part X July to December 1907. July-December, 1907. MS Political and Secret Department Records: Series 20: Political and Secret Department Library (1757-1952): Foreign Office Prints (1843-1937) IOR/L/PS/20/FO86/2. British Library. China and the Modern World, link.gale.com/apps/doc/VUNMRI204122586/CFER?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-CFER&xid=4562d5c7&pg=1. Accessed 21 Apr. 2022.